



Zakwanulhakim Abdul Nasir from Bagan Serai, Perak did not allow his disability from taking part in the pledge-taking by 4,579 UMS students of the 2016/2017 intake at the university yesterday. - - Bernama photo

## Only the best will thrive, new UMS students told

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching encouraged the new Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students to continue with the ministry's battle cry 'Soaring Upwards'.

Speaking to 4,579 new students yesterday, Yap reminded them they are fortunate to be selected to begin a colourful and historical chapter of their lives at UMS.

She also welcomed the 168 new international students and assured Sabah offers a unique lifestyle where its people of various ethnic and races, religions and cultures are living harmoniously for decades.

Yap said the Ministry of Education through the Malaysian Education Development Plan 2015-2025 (Higher Education) will, in two years, acquire feedback from the country's as well as international education experts, local higher learning institutions and the general public.

"The result will be a higher education plan developed by the people of Malaysia, for Malaysians, steering Malaysia towards becoming a high income nation.

Yap also advised the students to focus all attention on the assignments given, and on their main responsibility as students, which is to gain knowledge.

"Utilize all available opportunities to gain knowledge and hone your talents as well as you possibly can. You have to master various knowledge and skills if you want to make it in this increasingly competitive world. So do your best to be the best because only the best among you will survive and thrive.

"Should you be able to fulfil this responsibility, I'm sure that in four or five years, UMS will produce its best batch of graduates who will be the pride of their families, the people and the country," she said.

Yap also praised the university for its achievements, having garnered various successes since it was established in 1994.

Meanwhile, UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, disclosed that the 'meet the new students' programme is held from August 30 to September 2.

Although the programme was previously held for a week, the university has shortened it to four days, believing in the quality of the input rather than the quantity in the number of days the programme is held.

"It is our commitment at UMS to give the best of services by giving new students the latest inputs as soon as they register. It also exposes them to the life and culture of studying, apart from preparing them for their new journey," said Harun.