

Autonomous status for UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has been accorded the autonomous status from Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik.



With the recognition, UMS is on the same level with all 20 public universities in the country, said UMS Strategic Management and Corporate Communication Centre in a statement.

"The assessment for the recognition was conducted in phases since 2013. The evaluation was done on four sectors – governance, academic administration, financial and human resource management," said the statement.

"Under the autonomous status, the power of decision-making is devolved from the central agency to the University

Board of Directors to enable UMS progress effectively."

The status also enables UMS to be more flexible in charting its own direction as well as implement certain matters.

"However, the university management still has to comply with the rules, strategies and policies of the Government and the Ministry as the status is not absolute.

"In line with the recognition, the University Board of Directors' function will be further strengthened to ensure the resources are managed with full integrity and accountability.

"The status is a responsibility which should be shouldered by all quarters in UMS and they should work hard to ensure that university will comply with the criteria," it said.

Meanwhile, Datuk Dr Mohd Sofi Osman (pic) has been appointed as the new UMS Board of Directors Chairman, effective Oct 1 this year to Sept 30, 2021.

UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin said the former Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) Board of Directors Chairman replaced Tun Datuk Seri Zaki Tun Azmi who had completed his term of service.

He said Dr Mohd Sofi has a Bachelor in Engineering from Strathclyde University, Scotland, and has vast experience in the industrial sector as well as active in matters related to learning institution-industry collaboration.

He is currently the Managing Director cum Deputy President of Altera Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd, said Dr Kamarudin, in a statement, Friday.

Dr Mohd Sofi is also presently a member of MIMOS Semi-Conductor (M) Sdn Bhd Board of Directors, he said.

Dr Kamarudin said the UMS Board of Directors also received new members, namely Datuk Hashim Paijan (State Secretary), Datin Paduka Siti Hamisah Tapsir

(Director of Higher Education Department, Education Ministry), Datuk Vincent Pung Yee Kiong (Chief Executive Officer of Sabah Credit Corporation), Datuk Dr Christina Rundi (Director of State Health Department) and Asgari Mohd Fuad Stephens (Intelligent Capital Sdn Bhd).

He said the UMS community congratulated Dr Mohd Sofi and new members of the Board of Directors on their appointments and are confident that they are all capable of giving their best services for the university to continue excelling at the national and international levels.

The UMS community also thanked and appreciated the services and contribution by Zaki and ex-members of the Board of Directors, namely Tan Sri Sukarti Wakiman, Datuk Pengiran Mohd Hussein Datuk Pengiran Haji Mohd Tahir Nasruddin, Datuk Professor Dr Rujhan Mustafa and Datuk John Maluda.