

# Ex-TYT: Grab opportunities in oil and gas

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KOTA KINABALU: The oil and gas industry is here to stay, so local youths should grab every opportunity that comes with it.

"Sabah is a new territory for the industry with the discovery of several gas resources on its shores, thus, there's a need to prepare skilled workers in the industry which is here to stay for a long time," said former Head of State Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah.

Towards this end, he was confident that in the coming years, this industry will generate greater income for the State and the nation as a whole.

These huge resources will provide unlimited opportunity and increase employment opportunities, he said.

Ahmadshah said this at the joint conferment of certificates and advanced diploma to 195 students from two educational centres of learning under the UMS Link Holdings Sdn Bhd, here, Thursday.

Some 45 students graduated from the Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah Oil and Gas Academy (TAS Academy) and 150 students graduated from UMS Link Centre for Professional Development (UCPD).

Ahmadshah added that many people don't realise that the oil and gas industry has expand-

ed immensely on our shores.

"Most of our mindset is that oil and gas is only mostly based in Sarawak, but for the past few years, the industry in our State has expanded with the development of the oil and gas terminal in Kimanis due to be completed in 2013."

He added that according to official reports, the workforce requirement for Malaysia until year 2020 for the oil and gas and energy sector is around 53,000 people, out of which 21,000 require skills.

"TAS academy is the first of its kind in Sabah and today we saw the convocation of our first batch of students, whereby all of them have already secured jobs in the oil and gas industry.

"The number of students graduating today is definitely not enough, hence we need to increase the numbers. Perhaps, private institutes of higher learning can also include this in their programmes.

"These graduates will be very marketable, thus, I hope the course will continue and perhaps the number of students will increase," said Ahmadshah, adding that currently TAS has an enrolment of 183 students.

Meanwhile, the Best Student award went to TAS Advanced Diploma student, Dani Shamsuddin.