



Asyraaf and Dr Ismail (centre) together with UMS athletes and officials at the flag handing over ceremony held in Kota Kinabalu yesterday.

UMS target two gold at SUKIPT

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By Arfandi Jaafar

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) are targeting two gold medals at the Malaysia Higher Learning Institutions Sports Carnival (SUKIPT), which will be happening at UKM Bangi in Selangor from February 2 to 10 this year.

UMS sports centre director Mohd Asyraaf Fong Abdullah said more than 100 higher learning institutions from all over the country will be taking part and that UMS were

confident of bringing strong challenges despite sending a small contingent.

"We are sending only 18 athletes and seven officials, and they will be taking part in only six sporting disciplines.

"We are targeting only two gold medals, plus two silver and two bronze medals because the standard of competition will be very high but we are confident of bringing strong challenges in all our events," he said.

A total of 27 sports will be contested at the games this year but UMS will only be

competing in taekwondo, silat, karate, tenpin bowling, petanque and athletics.

More than 100 contingents were expected to take part including from public universities, private universities, university colleges, polytechniques and community colleges from all over Malaysia.

Leading the UMS contingent will be Cristina Ideris, who had shown sporting excellence throughout her time with UMS.

Meanwhile, when officiating at a simple flag handing over

ceremony yesterday, UMS deputy vice chancellor (student affairs) Professor Dr Ismail Ali urged the contingent to be brave and confident when facing their challenges at the games.

He also revealed that there would be incentives for outstanding athletes.

For the record, UMS concluded in seventh spot overall from 114 contingents at the previous SUKIPT despite only sending 20 athletes to the 2016 edition of the biennial sporting carnival.