

UMS set modest two-gold medal target

KOTA KINABALU: University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will be sending a small contingent of 18 athletes and seven officials to take part in Sukan Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi 2018 (SUKIPT) or the Institutions of Higher Learning Sports 2018.

UMS Sports Centre director Mohd Asyraf Fong Abdullah said this time around, they will only be taking part in six out of the 27 sporting events that will be held from Feb 2 to 10.

This time around, Malaysia National University (UKM) will play host to the biannual sporting event that is expected to attract about 100 varities from throughout the country.

Asyraf said they will only compete in taekwondo, silat, karate, tenpin bowling, petanque and track and field.

"We have set a two-gold, two-silver and two-bronze medals target as the events are very competitive. We will also see national athletes competing," he said.

UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs Professor Dr Ismail Ali, representing Vice Chancellor, hands over the UMS Flag to the contingent yesterday.

During the ceremony, Ismail urged the athletes to compete with confidence and high spirit.

He also said that gold medal winners will be rewarded handsomely.

The UMS contingent will be led by Cristina Ideris.

For the record, last time out in 2016, UMS ended their campaign in seventh among the 114 Institutions of Higher Learning that competed in the championships. — **FRANCIS XAVIER**



GEARED-UP ... Ismail and Asyraf (front row fifth and sixth from right), pose for a group photo together with the SUKIPT-bound athletes during the handing over of the UMS Flag ceremony yesterday.