

# UMS retain overall title in style

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) lived up to its promise by retaining the overall title at the 2nd Sabah Higher Learning Institution Sports Meet 2017 that ended here on Sunday.

The feat saw the hosts walk home with the Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching Challenge Trophy for the second consecutive year.

This time around, UMS athletes had no problem of getting the better of their opponents and they made full use of the slight advantage they had, and eventually dominated the meet after hauling seven out of the eight gold medals offered in the two-day competition.

They won the women's futsal, women's beach volleyball, men's basketball, football, netball and sepak takraw.

Politeknik Kota Kinabalu denied the hosts of making a clean sweep after winning the men's beach volleyball event.

According to UMS Sports Center Director, Mohd Asyraf Fong Abdullah, the UMS contingent made solid preparations in their bid to win the overall title.

He said they also instilled enthusiasm and confidence among the athletes from the very beginning.

Asyraf added that when it comes to sporting events such as this, UMS has been one of the best, not only in Sabah, but also



WELL DONE ... Tony Azman (in orange), presents the overall plaque to UMS representative Charles Thomas as Asyraf (in white T-shirt) looks on.

in Borneo.

He is proud of their latest achievement while hoping that this will continue in the coming years.

Asyraf hopes that the athletes will perform better at the national level championships or meet such as the upcoming Malaysia Higher Learning Institution Sports Meet (SUKIPT), which will be hosted by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, from February 1-10 as well as

the MASUM Games 2018.

On behalf of the UMS contingent, Asyraf also expressed his sincere thanks to UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin as well as the varsity's top level officials for their support, which he insisted was the heart of UMS sports development.

A total of 767 athletes from 20 institutions in the State took part in the meet that was graced by Deputy Higher Education

Minister Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching on Saturday.

Higher Education Ministry Sports Department assistant principal secretary Tony Azman presented the prizes to the winners.

Speaking at the prize giving ceremony, Azman said the meet has achieved its objectives where it provided students with an opportunity to showcase their talents in sports.

He stressed that this meet must be held every year because

based on observations and conversation with the students, they were all happy and lucky that a meet such as this was being held.

He added that in the near future, this meet could be the qualifying competition to compete at the Malaysia Higher Learning Institution Sports Meet.

On behalf of his ministry, Tony recorded his sincere appreciation and thanks to Datuk

Dr D Kamarudin for shouldering the responsibility in hosting the meet for the second time.

Meanwhile, apart from the seven gold medals, UMS also won two silver and one bronze, while Politeknik Kota Kinabalu also ended their campaign with another two silver medals.

UMS KAL finished third best overall with two silver and one bronze medal, followed by UiTM Sabah with one silver and three bronze medals.