

# Students need to be competitive

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KOTA KINABALU: Students who excel in academics should also do well in the human aspects.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah said that fierce competition in today's working world demands all students to be holistically competitive, adding that the university is responsible to provide first-class human capital to meet the demands of labour market.

"Cooperation between all parties in the university is important in efforts to educate and encourage students," said Dr Harun in his speech during the Student & Alumni Affairs Appreciation Night (MAHEPA) at 1Borneo Grand Ballroom here on Friday.

He added that the government's noble efforts in helping students need to be appreciated and the assistance such as SIM cards and book vouchers should be used wisely.

In his speech, Dr Harun also reminded students not to leave behind the academic aspects even though they might be busy with co-curriculum activities.

Meanwhile, he said the university has to prioritise students' needs such as the provision of 3,486 new set of furniture for residential college on the main campus and as well as at UMS KAL in Labuan.

In this regard, Dr Harun also hoped that students will continue to be the core of the development agenda of the country and also be a driving agent to foster Eco Campus culture on campus.

On another note, deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs & alumni) Associate Professor Dr Haji Kasim Haji Md Mansur said UMS is a house of knowledge not only in producing intellectuals but also a platform for students to enhance their capabilities and achievements through various student activities.

"There are a variety of student achievements during the year 2012 such as

the 'UMS Students in Free Enterprise' (SIFE UMS) programme or 'Enactus' where members involved were selected to represent Malaysia at the world cup competition in Washington DC after coming out champs at the national-level in September last year," said Dr Kasim.

Also the "Simply Green" and "Sempurna" from the School of Forestry & International Tropical (SPTA) represented the zones of Sabah and Sarawak at the national competition of MyInovasi 2012.

Additionally, Dr Kasim said that successes of students in areas such as innovation, literature, culture, sports, community and volunteering not only reflected their keen sense of competitiveness but also their commitment.

MAHEPA is an event held annually by the Department of Student Affairs & Alumni (JHEP) UMS and aims to give recognition to students, staff and external agencies for the contribution and commitment to JHEP.



Dr Harun (second right) receives a memento from Dr Kasim (second left)



Dr Harun (left) hands over an appreciation award