



Some of the students during the registration session.

UMS enrols 4,279 for new intake

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) enrolled a total of 4,279 students for its 2013/2014 intake at its campus here on Sunday.

UMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said a total of 5,072 students were offered a place for this new intake but only 4,279 of them accepted the offer, adding that there was an decrease of five per cent compared to last year's intake.

"Out of this figure, a total of 2,813 are in the Literature stream while 2,259 are in the Science stream," he told a media conference during the new intake registration session.

He said a total of 121 were international students and 263 were Fundamental Science students, while a total of 100 poor students were also offered a place for various courses.

For the Science stream, he said, girls recorded a total of 1,465 enrolments, while boys recorded a total of 794. For Literature, boys recorded a total of 911 enrolments while girls recorded a total of 1,902 enrolments.

Meanwhile, many parents were seen waiting anxiously as their children queued up for the registration process. For many of these parents, it would be a time of separation and a huge change as their children make the transition to university, some being away from home for the first time.

50-year-old Tan Bee Ling, from Rawang, Selangor, said saying goodbye to her daughter gave her a mixed reaction of sadness and happiness, particularly so since her 21-year-old daughter, Wong Hui Yean, is physically challenged.

"She was born a healthy girl but she fell and broke her leg when she was only four years old. Since then she could only walk with the use of crutches and she cannot be standing for more than an hour due to her condition," said Tan.

"I am nervous but I think it is time for her to be independent and I am sure the university would be able to provide the best education and facilities for disabled individuals like my daughter," she said.

Meanwhile, Wong, who is the second of four siblings, said she consulted her family and teachers prior to enrolment.

"There were so many options but my teachers



Wong (left) accompanied by her mother, Tan.

told me that UMS is a very good university capable of accommodating the needs of students like me," she said, adding that she will be doing her four-year Degree in Psychology Counselling.

Another mother, 45-year-old Margarate Misan, from Kg Sembulan Tengah, said that despite being illiterate she was firm when it comes to her children's education.

"I am illiterate due to lack of education opportunity but I make sure my children get the proper education because I believe education and good moral values are the ticket to success," she said.

Her daughter, Selbinah Paul, 20, who will be doing her three-year Degree in International Trade, expressed gratitude to her parents, particularly her mother.

"We live in a part of the city which some might identify as a hotspot area, but thanks to our mothers' firm upbringing, my siblings and I are able to be who we are today," said Selbinah, who is the eight out of nine siblings.