



CM Datuk Seri Musa Aman arrives to officiate at an oath-taking ceremony of 4,279 UMS students for the 2013/2014 session yesterday. At second left is UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

UMS initiates program to assist underprivileged students

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By Murib Morpi

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) recently adopted a new programme to help underprivileged students continue their studies at its campus.

The public university has introduced a new intake mode for its newly started 2013/2014 semester, which gives priority to students from poor families.

Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said 100 eligible students were selected to join the latest intake this year under the new approach.

"This is one of UMS' corporate social responsibility (CSR) agendas to give the students involved a better access to higher education," he said in his welcoming remarks during the oath-taking ceremony for the new intake at the university yesterday.

The event was officiated by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman.

He explained that the students were chosen from the lists screened by several parties, such as the Education Department, Welfare Department, schools and local community leaders.

He added that UMS itself also made its own effort to find eligible students by going to the ground

to assess the environment and socio-economic situation of the students listed as underprivileged by the related agencies before offering them suitable courses at the university.

He said UMS will continue to assist and encourage the needy to pursue quality education, so that they could have better chances of helping themselves and their family break out of poverty.

"Efforts like this will continue because UMS subscribes to the noble agenda of the government to improve the living standard and economy of the poor through education," he said, adding that the university will also set up a special committee for monitoring and nurturing the educational growth and personality of the students involved.

The move was also in line with the directive from the government to all IPTAs to take in Sijil Pelajaran Tinggi Malaysia (STPM) graduates who did not manage to secure a place at any institution based on the merit system.

A total of 4,954 new students took their oath at the ceremony, with 137 of them international students.

Harun, in his address, urged the new students to make full use of the opportunity given to them to gain as much knowledge as they can and to groom themselves into charismatic and productive individuals. ♦ Continued in A4.