

PLEDGE ON QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION

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KOTA KINABALU: The state government will remain committed and work with the federal government to help improve the quality of higher learning in the country.

Today, since the setting up of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), the state government has moved in tandem with UMS' development strides – meeting the university's economic and students' needs.

“And the university's growth has added value and improve the economy of the surrounding areas as well as living standards of the people nearby,” Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman said when witnessing the oath-taking and “Aku Janji” ceremony 4,954 UMS students for the 2013-2014 academic session at the university campus here yesterday. Among the undergraduates were 126 foreign students.

In short, Musa who is also UMS pro-chancellor said it has garnered the transformation of the state's development.

He said in line with the vision to make Malaysia a centre of higher learning excellence in Southeast Asia by 2020, the government has developed an environment to produce quality graduates who are competitive and innovative as well as to ensure they embrace good morals.

He also said the system of learning at higher learning institutions is not the same as that in schools.

“In school, you receive guidance from your teachers but at the university, the environment is very different.

“Students cannot just rely on their lecturers. The knowledge acquired from the lecture room is definitely not enough to enable you to achieve excellence,” the Chief Minister said.

He urged the students to constantly hold group discussions to exchange ideas and to acquire more knowledge.

Apart from that, he said the students should cultivate a reading habit in order to expand their knowledge.

Musa also advised the undergraduates who would be taking up residence at the campus to always obey campus rules and regulations, be responsible and to inculcate noble values during their time as students at the university.



Musa, accompanied by Dr Harun, waving to the students after witnessing the ceremony

Meanwhile on the Malaysia Day celebration on September 16, he said: “This year marks Sabah's 50 years of independence within Malaysia along with Sarawak. I believe during the long journey, we have enjoyed development and progress as part of an independent and sovereign nation.”

“And today, the people are enjoying better standards of living due to independence and progress which the country has achieved.

“As a responsible government, we have developed the country by implementing various programmes and policies to bring about progress, henceforth preserving harmony among the people.

“We also have modern and world class facilities which

are being enjoyed by the people,” he said.

Musa also said independence is of enormous symbolic importance.

“As such I call on everyone to preserve sovereignty and harmony that we enjoy today. Do not be influenced by elements who are out to undermine peace in the country,” he said.

Also present yesterday were UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, members of UMS Board of Directors, MSM Session 2012/2013 director general Prof Madya Dr Murnizam Haji Malik, senior university officials and president of the UMS Students Representatives' Council (2012-2013 session) Mohd Juhar Harun.