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The post-graduate students taking oath at UMS.

UMS aims to be research varsity by 2015

Sherell Ann Jeffrey

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is working hard to become a research university in 2015, said its Vice Chancellor Datuk Seri Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon.

“By the year 2020, the Ministry of Higher Education aims to promote at least six universities as research universities and be ranked among the world’s top universities.

“UMS is currently categorised as a comprehensive university and not yet a research university although we are working very hard to become a research university in the year 2015,” he said.

He said this during the oath-taking ceremony by some 712 new post-graduate students, including 37 foreign students, for the 2011/2012 term, at the UMS Recital Hall here, Tuesday.

“This is also in line with the Government’s aspiration to improve the country’s competitive

capability through high quality human capital produced by our very own education system.

“In the new economic model, the task to produce highly competitive human capital with innovation and willingness to explore and create new opportunities is a factor that determines the success and prosperity of this country.

“For this reason, Malaysia’s education sector has always been supportive of the idea of continuous education from the early education in school right through tertiary level and eventually to postgraduate education.

“The field of education is one of the critical catalysts that will help transform this country from a middle income country to a high income one.

“Among the criteria to be world ranking is of course research, which is why students are here to help us be among the top ranking universities by conducting research which is inter-

nationally known, by producing outputs which can be interpreted into quality journals, etc.

“We are progressing to become among the top universities in the world. In fact, if you refer to the webometrics ranking, it shows that we are already categorised among the seventh top university in Malaysia. This is proof to the strength that we have. If we look at the current era, the country’s economy is shifting towards the direction of the service sector.

“I wish to call upon the centre for post-graduates studies to be able to offer more post-graduate programmes that are abreast with the relevance to the current needs and trends of the market force.

“Human capital can reach maturity through meaningful, relevant and meticulous plan, programme and experience. The university’s principal administrative officers are aware of the importance of academic quality in promoting excellence in education,” he said.