

# UMS students in city graduation parade

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By Natasha Sim

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said 4,551 students would be graduating with Diplomas, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and PhDs at the 15th UMS Convocation ceremony this year.

"These students are from the 65 academic programs offered by UMS, from the 14 different schools, the three 'Pusat Kecemerlangan Penyelidikan' (Excellent Research Centres) and 14 other research units," Harun said in his speech at the 7th UMS Graduation Parade yesterday.

He said fresh graduates made up part of the 41,000 alumni of UMS and on a congratulatory note, he advised them to continue building on their success stories.

Hundreds of graduates from UMS marched across Kota Kinabalu City Centre in their robes here yesterday in celebration of a new chapter of their lives.

The symbolic parade started at the Kota Kinabalu community hall at 9am and ended 0.8 kilometre at Kota Kinabalu City Hall (KKCH).

Harun said that the graduation parade, which has been a tradition since 2007, is symbolic of the local community's acceptance of these fresh graduates.

He added that in the parade, the graduates were escorted by UMS and KKCH personnel and represented youths being guided into society as educated individuals.

On the same note, he said that the parade also represented a hope to improve community ties and to encourage a sense of belonging.

Harun also reiterated on the importance of the graduation parade spreading a message of collaboration between the university and the community,



Tun Zaki (left) and Harun (right) taking part in the graduation parade yesterday.

for the betterment of future generations.

Meanwhile, Mayor Datuk Abidin Madingkir said the graduation parade as an annual event could contribute to the tourism sector.

He stressed that the existence of a university is an important asset to the community of Kota Kinabalu and views it as a component in ensuring KK's growth.

"The university has helped to boost local businesses, the hotel industry, investment, image

and the good name of Kota Kinabalu through activities such as international or even local conferences, research and community service," Abidin said.

He praised the university's environmental efforts and as an ecocampus in launching a "Program MY TREE" as part of World Forest Day 2013.

Abidin also highlighted that UMS Indah Permai College Residences has been acknowledged as a college residence without trash in 2010 in line with KKCH's 'Anti-Trash'



The graduates marching towards Kota Kinabalu City Hall.

campaign.

The graduates were handed a key to the city by Abidin to acknowledge their status as citizens of Kota Kinabalu and to represent the continued cooperation and ties between KKCH and UMS.

In attendance at the event were the chairman of Universiti Malaysia Sabah's Board of Directors, Tun Dato' Seri Zaki Tun Azmi, City Hall Director-General Datuk Yeo Boon Hai, City Hall Deputy Director-General (Corporate) Bahari Hj Hassan, UMS Alumni and Student Affairs Centre Director Lt Kol Prof Madya Dr Mahmud Hj Sudin and City Hall Deputy Director-General of Operations Joannes Solidau.



The graduation parade being led by flag-bearers.



Harun (third left) and Abidin (fourth left) seated with other guests of honor and the graduates.