

New chairman Zaki pledges to take UMS to new heights

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KOTA KINABALU: The new chairman of Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) Board of Directors, Tun Zaki Tun Azmi (pictured), is aiming to take the university to the "next level" in academic, administration and financial performances.

Zaki, who officially took over the post from Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Egeh in April, said he would use his experience in the judiciary and corporate world to help UMS find the best way to improve quality in the three aspects.

He said Abdul Hamid had laid a strong foundation and set the university in the right direction, and it was incumbent upon him to continue the good work and take UMS to greater heights.

Abdul Hamid served UMS for 18 years from 1995 to 2013.

"I believe that any university must nurture and look after its three main entities, namely the students; academicians and administrators," Zaki said.

"In terms of students, I think a university should accomplish three goals.

"It should improve their chances of getting employment, improve their opportunity of getting well paid jobs, and of course improve their knowledge," Zaki said during the 15th UMS Convocation Dinner here last night, which was graced



by Head of State Tun Juhar Mahiruddin and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman.

Other than the students, Zaki said the academicians were the most important asset of a university, which it must continuously develop and improve.

The quality of the professors and lecturers and their ability to pass that quality down to the students determine the quality and prestige of the university, he said.

Equally important, he said, were the administration officers and staff, as the university would not be able to function without them as its backbone.

The 15th convocation to be officiated by Musa today will see 4,553 graduates receiving doctorate and bachelor degrees, and diplomas in various fields.