



Some of the Umno Youth officials.

DE 9.12.13 9

Arifin suggests UMS set up faculty of Islamic Studies

Hayati Dzulkifli

KUALA LUMPUR: There is a need to establish a faculty of Islamic Studies in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) as part of a transformation agenda of Umno to empower the Islamic teachings in the State and nation.

Umno Kimanis Deputy Chief, Datuk Mohd Arifin Mohd Arif said it is high time for the university to consider such move so as to further uplift the image of Islam and produce graduates with sufficient knowledge of Islam.

By doing so, he said public especially local youths would not have to go to the peninsula and overseas to study the same field which will save costs, time and energy.

"The proposed faculty in UMS would offer Islamic studies in Usuluddin, Syariah and 'Dakwah' (Propagating Teachings of Islam).

"It will also make UMS to be at par with other local universities in the peninsula," he said when tabling a motion on religion aspect to debate the party president policy speech at the Umno General Assembly 2013 here, on Saturday.

Arifin who is also Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister said Sabah Dakwah Studies Institution Centre (IPDAS) in

Keningau also need to be upgraded from offering certificate and diploma level to degree level.

He said IPDAS that is under administration of Malaysia Islamic Development Department (Jakim) was set up three years ago that offer field of studies in Islamic knowledge and other living skills courses.

He said such proposed move would uplift the standard of IPDAS and its image as well as offering more fields of studies and courses with higher qualifications.

Arifin, who is also Membakut assemblyman, said Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) needs to be empowered by increasing publication of books on Malay civilizations, literature, art and culture, among others, through printing



Arifin delivering his debate speech on religious aspect.

those books.

"Currently those books are printed by private printing companies and it is timely to return the printing right to DBP because its publication has gone down drastically up to 44 per cent.

"In fact, 60 authors have withdrawn their books from DBP as they have no confidence with the agency capabilities," he said.