

UMS Sandakan enrols first batch of 253 students

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SANDAKAN: Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) third campus at the Sandakan Education Hub received its first batch of 253 students on Monday.

The campus, which accommodates the School of Sustainable Agriculture (SSA) located at Jalan Sungai Batang, is incidentally the first institution of higher learning to operate in the hub.

From the 253 students that registered, 64 are from the new intake while the rest are senior students who prior to this were based at the main UMS campus in Kota Kinabalu.

SSA Sandakan UMS dean, Associate Prof Mahmud Sudin, said three programmes are currently offered under the bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science, namely Food Production, Horticulture and Landscape and Livestock Production.

He said the vast 99-hectare SSA campus accommodates research trial plots for plants and animals, besides the administrative building, lecture rooms and college living quarters.

"The setting up of the school at the Sandakan Education Hub is suitable for training students for skilled labour to enhance the country's agricultural economic output," he said when met after delivering his address to the students at the SSA multi-purpose hall.

Mahmud said a technology trial at the research plot will be set up with the cooperation of the industry to obtain realistic and practical data.

He said this would enable SSA, which is appropriately rich in the State's agricultural geomorphology, to identify trials and research relevant to the industry.