

# UMS and IPSOM to conduct study on safety of Sabah's waters

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By **BALQIS JAMALUDIN**  
balqis@newsabah-  
times.com.my

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will cooperate with the Institute of Public Safety of Malaysia (IPSOM) to conduct a study on the safety of Sabah's waters, according to UMS Vice-Chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah (pictured).

He said the results of the study would be in the form of recommendations and suggestions for the authorities especially the Ministry of Home Affairs on action to be taken to tighten security around Sabah's waters.

"This is a strategic co-operation as UMS has academic expertise in the fields of social sciences, culture and security, among others. UMS



will work not only with IPSOM, an institution under the Ministry of Home Affairs that was established three months ago, but also with other agencies," he told a media conference at the UMS Chancellery Building here yesterday. Dr Harun had earlier attended a meeting on the details about the study.

He said the study should not be seen as a purely aca-

demical research as it could have an impact on the nation's security and defence.

It will begin with a social study of 3-6 months and will involve residents living in areas off Sabah's waters from Kudat to Tawau, he said.

Dr Harun also did not rule out the possibility of working together with the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) and other agencies such as the Royal Malaysian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Police in the study.

"This collaboration is considered timely as Sabah is very much exposed to the sea and has many neighbouring countries. Thus, it is vulnerable to various security issues and threats," he said, adding that UMS and IPSOM are now finalizing the social study survey form which would be distributed soon.