

# UMS to beef up

## security measures

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KOTA KINABALU: The tragedy that has befallen several university students around the country has prompted Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to beef up security measures.

Concerns rose even higher following the drive-by shooting recently which made short work of glass panels in over 40 premises all over the city. Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs), Datuk Dr. Kassim Mansur said there is no compromising the safety of students.

"The security guards of the university are always reminded to not compromise the safety of students. Foreigners and outsiders will be questioned as to what business they have in the campus and will be asked to leave if they are deemed too suspicious.

"Even animals could be a danger to the students, so we take action and capture these animals to release them somewhere else," he said.

Student hostels can be within the campus and also outside, thus posing many security risks, but UMS has taken careful steps in keeping students safe.

"We issued a curfew for hostels before, but we are enforcing it even more now. With rising threats, students should understand the reason behind us enforcing curfews and other rules.

"The curfew that we have placed on students living in hostels, is 11pm. Main gates, at campus and outside hostels, will close and will not open for anyone for security reasons. Students who have obtained special permission to be out later than the curfew are the only ones able to enter after 11," he said. Kassim also said that unorthodox techniques have been, and will be, used in order to keep the peace in the university.

"Many undercover policeman have been put in UMS to monitor the students' well being. We are also planning to hire Rela members to keep students safe as an added measure," he said.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Vice Chancellor also reminded students to prioritise their safety in times such as these.

"I understand that studies are important to a student, but make sure to prioritise your security and health to guard yourselves in this difficult time," he said.