

# Sabahans urged to pursue their studies in O&G

DE 13-3-2014 4

## Larissa Lumandan

**KOTA KINABALU:** Students are encouraged to pursue their studies in oil and gas and indulge themselves in skills within the industry.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Director of Oil and Gas Engineering Studies and Training Unit (OGESTU), Professor Dr Pogaku Ravindra, said the State needs more local people and that currently, 5,000 people are needed in the oil and gas industry in Malaysia.

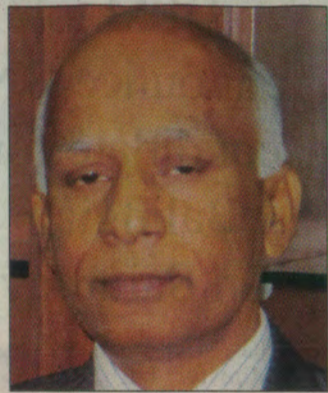
"If the local people are trained with skills, then the country does not need to hire people from other countries and the future would be in our hands. Presently, we can depend on others but for how long? Global players would come in to do their job but as soon they have completed they would go off," he said.

Therefore, Ravindran said they need support from both the Government and industries to come forward to sponsor scholarships for students giving as example the Talisman Malaysia Limited (TML), which had offered eight scholarships to eight Sabahan students from UMS.

"It is my dream to see Sabah flourish in the Gross Domestic Product as well as its economic status," he said.

Ravindran said this during the One-day Seminar on "Opportunities and Challenges In The Upstream Oil and Gas Industry 2014" at the UMS Arts School Recital Hall, here, Wednesday.

He explained that royalties from oil and gas might develop human capital but by providing facilities, the people would be able to grow in terms of skills, developing their own technology and in



Dr Ravindran

fields which are required at the moment.

However, he explained that there are things holding back the younger generations from joining the oil and gas industry, citing the fear of safety by parents as they are required to go into waters and remain on offshore platforms.

Besides this, he also said the phobia of students towards the Science and Mathematics subjects is one of the reasons why they refused to enrol in the oil and gas industry programme.

"The oil and gas industry in Sabah was a sunrise industry two years back but now I see it as a sun shining industry," he said, adding that the Sabah Sarawak Gas Pipeline, which is Asia's largest pipeline, will start operations in 2015 and there are currently 6,000 contractors from the Korean and Indian company hired for its construction.