

Nobody above the law, including govt, says Head of State

By **KHABIL KIRAM**
 khabil@newsabah-
 times.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: Obeying the law is imperative towards the creation of a civil society and this requires that nobody is above the law, including the government, said Head of State, Tun Juhar Mahiruddin.

Juhar said the actions of the government must also be seen and subjected to law.

"Freedom without law is freedom only for the strong at the expense of the weak. Freedom without law is therefore no freedom but rather anarchy or tyranny. Suffice to say that law is the bond of all civil society," he said.

Juhar said good judgement requires a strong sense of reason that regulates man's most basic emotions, which are anger and desire.

"A person's ability to practise moderation in these emotions is a sign of good reasoning skills, which is governed by man's faculty of justice.

"The faculty of knowledge will produce wickedness if excessive, and stupidity if deficient. If it is at the mean, wisdom is achieved.

"The faculty of anger will generate rashness when in excess, cowardice when deficient and courage when it is at the mean.

"The faculty of desire produces greed when in excess, annihilation of desire when it is deficient and temperance when it is at the mean," said Juhar adding that any deviation from the mean to any extreme would produce vice.

He stressed that good leadership must therefore be free from vice and coupled with a strong sense to uphold justice.

"Respect for the rule of law is the fundamental condition for freedom and a civilised society to flourish on the basis of justice," said Juhar.

The Head of State was speaking at his conferment of an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Wolverhampton at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here yesterday.

Juhar graduated from the University of Wolverhampton with a Bachelor's Degree in Law in 1977 and was bestowed the honour of becoming the 10th Head of State on December 31, 2010.

His commemorative convocation yesterday was witnessed by delegates from the university including its vice chancellor Professor Geoff Layer, UMS vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah, government dignitaries and students of UMS.



Juhar (right) receiving the Honorary PhD in Law from the University of Wolverhampton's vice chancellor Professor Geoff Layer – Photo by EDDIE ANGAT, eddie@newsabaitimes.com.my