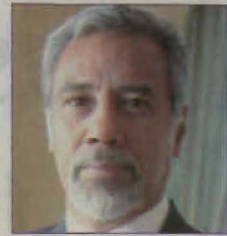


UMS oil-gas role in East Timor

DE 29. 3. 2014 9



Gusmao: To get a
honorary doctorate

Jason Santos

KOTA KINABALU: Two memorandum of understandings (MoUs) that will be inked this April will paved the way for Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to assist Timor-Leste in the development of their expertise in oil and gas industry.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah on Thursday said ensuing the MoUs, 30 trainees from Timor-Leste will undergo training on the necessary expertise and skills, here in UMS.

He claimed the move was the result of

UMS entourage meeting with the East Timor Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao recently, where a discussion was also held with his Petroleum Minister.

“The diploma course will usually take two to three years, while we’re also offering Masters Degree to them,” he said.

He said the upcoming MoU signing ceremonies will be held on March 31, in Putrajaya before two prime minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Gusmao, and on April 2 between the Education Ministry and the Petroleum and Mineral

Resources Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Ministry.

And in conjunction to the second event, Gusmao will also be awarded with the Honours Doctorate Degree in International Relation Philosophy to the Gusmao, here, he said.

Dr Mohd Harun viewed the MoUs as a launchpad for UMS to the international scene as it improves the number of international students rising in UMS and strengthen bilateral ties between Malaysia and East Timor.

Furthermore, it will also boost UMS as being the niche in the field of education of oil and gas, he added.

He also noted the trainees were selected by UMS, where he also plans to propose to airlines to provide direct flights from Sabah to Timor-Leste. “I think this relationship will open a lot of opportunity for Malaysia to invest into Timor-Leste.” he opined.

Several key leaders from Sabah and Timor-Leste is also expected to be present during the event.