

# UMS schools to be known as faculties

By Jenne Lajun

**KOTA KINABALU:** Starting June 1, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) schools will be known as faculties.

UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah said the move is to address the confusion that has arisen from the use of the term 'schools' at the university.

"The term 'school' often depicts lower and not higher education... we want to rectify this perception amongst members of the public, and particularly parents who have raised this issue," he said at the ceremony to launch the change of titles for the schools at UMS into faculties beginning next month.

The new development shall bring about other changes as well.

Starting next month, UMS shall no longer have 13 schools but 10 faculties.

The School of Science and Technology and School of International Tropical Forestry would be merged to become the Science and Resource Faculty. The

dean for the faculty is Professor Baba Murta.

The Science Social School will also merge with the Arts Studies School to become the Faculty of Humanity, Arts and Heritage which will be headed by Professor Dr Hamdan Adnan.

The Psychology and Social Work School and Social Education and Development will be combined to become the Faculty of Psychology and Education and to be headed by Professor Dr Ismail Ibrahim. Meanwhile, the School of Engineering and Information Technology will be renamed as the Engineering Faculty and to be headed by Professor Dr Rosalam Sabartly.

The Science Information School in Labuan will be renamed the Faculty of Computerisation and Information. The dean of the faculty is Professor Dr Awang Asri.

The Sustainable Agriculture School will be known as the Sustainable Agriculture Faculty and will be led by Professor Dr

Azwan Awang.

Professor Dr Shariffudin Md Shaarani, meanwhile, was appointed as the dean for the Faculty of Food Sciences and Nutrition, which was previously known as the School of Food Sciences and Nutrition.

Professor Dr Rasid Mail was appointed as dean of the Business, Economic and Accountancy Faculty. This faculty was previously known as the School of Business and Economy.

Professor Dr Syed Nasrin Syed Zainal Abidin meanwhile was appointed as the dean for the Labuan International Finance Faculty, previously known as the School of Business and International Finance Labuan.

Lastly, Professor Dr Kamarudin D. Mudin was made the dean of the Medical and Health Science Faculty, which replaced the Medical School.

Harun reminded that the roles and responsibilities entrusted on all the newly appointed deans were



Harun (second left) handing over the appointment letter to Engineering Faculty Dean, Professor Madya Dr Rosalam Sabartly during the ceremony yesterday.

heavy but cited that the individuals were selected based on their seniority and experience.

At the same time, Harun also cited the 2014 as the year for the university to promote itself to international students.

He said UMS had been attracting

a growing number of foreign students over the last few years, the bulk of which were from China.

"We have experienced an increase of between five per cent and 10 per cent of foreign students this year as compared to last year," he said.

UMS foreign students come from China, Japan, Indonesia, Brunei, Turkey, Korea, India and Bangladesh.

"We would like to attract students from Timor Leste as well," he said, disclosing the future plans the university hopes to embark into.