

UMS plans to be first in having artificial turf football field

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is set to become the first higher learning institution in the country to have an artificial turf football field.

A fund to raise money for the installation of the artificial turf, which involves RM2.5 million, was launched during the UMS Sports Award 2013/2014 here two days ago.

UMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah revealed RM1.5 million has been raised to date, which included an RM500,000 contribution from YTL and RM20,000 from the Youth and Sports Ministry.

Other generous contributors included Evergreen Nursery with RM20,000, Jeselton Potential Sdn Bhd (RM15,000), Carino (RM10,000), Juara Axis (RM5,000) and Atikah Enterprise Kinabalu Sdn Bhd (RM5,000).



MINISTRY CONTRIBUTION ... deputy permanent secretary Penyuki Matta hands over RM20,000 contribution from the Youth and Sports Ministry to Harun, witnessed Tawfiq, for the UMS Artificial Turf Fund.

"The move to lay international-quality artificial turf shows UMS and Sabah are able to compete with the developed

nations and capable of producing international class athletes," said Harun.

According to him, the project

was among the efforts of UMS to provide encouragement for student activities.

He said UMS has upgraded existing facilities such as building covered courts, basketball courts, netball, volleyball and petanque.

Meanwhile, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Tawfiq Abu Bakar Titingan believed the collaboration between the ministry and UMS would contribute to developing sports in Sabah.

Tawfiq said that the expertise and facilities available at UMS should be fully utilised for the betterment of sports in the state.

"The ministry in collaboration with UMS is implementing a Sports Development blueprint which comprises targets in the short term to long term," said

Tawfiq who was guest of honour at the award ceremony.

Tawfiq also officially launched the Artificial Turf Fund and was quick to praise the initiative taken by UMS in realising the plan to build an artificial turf football field.

He said the government too was well aware of the importance of artificial turf field as one of the crucial necessities in the development of football.

Having said that, Tawfiq revealed the government is in the process of building its first artificial turf field at the Sandakan Sports Complex, which is expected to be completed either September or October this year.

Work on a similar facility too will start within this year at the Kota Kinabalu Sports Complex in Likas here.