

UMS not biased when giving promotions: VC

Gordon Chin



KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is not biased in giving promotions to its academic staff but is also not the easiest university to get promoted in.

its Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah (pic) said that in fact, the university maintains a very high standard for their academic staff and only selects those who are fully qualified both on paper and based on their attitude for promotions.

"UMS does not pick who gets promoted when based on any other factor besides their eligibility and duration of service in the university. We are not biased in any way or to anyone.

"With the high standards set for promotions, the increasing number of academic staff being promoted every year in UMS only shows how capable our academic staff are, since our promotion criteria is set at a very high level," he said.

Harun said this before handing over

promotion offer letters to 47 teaching staff of UMS in a ceremony held at the university's Chancellery, here, Tuesday.

According to him, promotions are only given to academic staff who meet the black and white requirements, but they are also assessed based on their overall attitude and discipline.

"Maybe some of our academic staff have met all the necessary requirements to get promoted, but if we find that they have any attitude or disciplinary problems, they will not be offered a promotion," he added.

Harun said that the most important thing for a university to produce high quality human capital for the country is the commitment and responsibility of every staff member, especially the lecturers and professors.

Among those who were promoted during the ceremony was Dr Lai Yew Meng who is with the Promotion of Language and Learning Centre and has been with UMS since 1997. He was promoted to Associate Professor.

"I am definitely very glad to have received this promotion, which is also my third promotion in UMS and it is safe to say that all my hard work and dedication has

paid off and I am very thankful to the management of UMS for trusting me," he said.

Lai, who is originally from Kuala Lumpur, was first promoted to a lecturer in 1998, where he served until 2005 before being promoted to Senior Lecturer. He is married to a local UMS lecturer, Dr Maurene De Silva, who is with the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage.

"Sabah is my home. It is part of my identity. Being here for almost 20 years, most of it being in UMS, the university has also become second nature," he added.

Also receiving her promotion was Dr Malehah Mohd Noh, who is a medical doctor by profession and is also a lecturer in UMS. She was promoted to Medical Lecturer.

"I have been practicing as a medical doctor with the government hospitals for so long and I felt like I can do more than just being a doctor - I wanted to teach people how to become doctors.

"That is when I decided to join UMS in 2006 and since then, I have taken my Masters and returned to UMS in 2011.

"Three years later, here I am being promoted. All praise to God and I am very grateful to my ever supportive family and friends," she said.