

UMS students advised to steer away from Western cultures, practices

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Kamaruzaman (fourth right) and other key personnel of UMS look on as the Jalur Gemilang is raised.

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) vice chancellor Datuk Seri Panglima Professor Dr Kamaruzaman Hj Ampon has reminded students to steer away from negative Western cultures and practices.

He pointed out that the independence of a country was not just limited to physical independence, but also mental independence from negative influences of the Western culture.

"I definitely hope that will not happen, especially among UMS students and staff," he said when officiating at the UMS National Day celebration here yesterday.

Kamaruzaman added that the country had provided various infrastructure and public facilities for the people.

After more than 50 years of independence, Kamaruzaman said schools nationwide were equipped with facilities such as libraries, hostels, computer laboratories and textbook assistance for needy students.

"Our teachers are

knowledgeable, our curriculum updated not only to enable the people to read but to develop our human resources for them to contribute to the country."

He added that 20 public higher learning institutions (IPTA) have been set up, in addition to polytechnics, community colleges and hundreds of private higher learning institutions (IPTS) that enable students to further their studies to a higher level compared to our colonial period.

"Some of the students are also sponsored by the government to pursue their studies overseas such as Europe, the United States, Japan, Korea and many more."

Through the UMS National Day celebration, Kamaruzaman hopes that the students and staff of UMS would understand and appreciate the meaning of independence.

Acceptance of our diverse community, he pointed out, would be the strength to bring our country forward.