



The Town and Gown Procession in the heart of Kota Kinabalu.

UMS produced 47,000 grads so far

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KOTA KINABALU: It was a sight to behold as a sea of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) graduates, led by Vice Chancellor Datuk Mohd Harun Abdullah, took to the streets in their full-graduation robes here on Monday morning.

The almost one kilometre 'Town and Gown' procession from the Community Hall to City Hall compound here was held in conjunction with the university's 16th convocation this weekend.

It was the eighth edition of the parade since 2007 and was meant to allow the two distinct communities here, the 'town' being the non-academic population and the 'gown' the university com-

munity, to join celebrating the achievements of the graduates.

During his speech, Harun said about 4,490 students who have completed their studies in the university would each receive their diplomas, degrees, masters degrees and PhD respectively.

"They are from 65 academic programmes offered at the university, through ten faculties and in collaboration with three Research Excellence Centres as well as 14 research units or centres.

"These graduates would be inducted into the university's alumni which has reached almost 47,000 people. "This population is a very significant element to the university and they could act as ambassadors as well as agents for excellence, who

would carry on the good name of their alma mater and Kota Kinabalu," he said.

The 67 graduates who took part in the parade were escorted by the university board of director chairman and members, officers as well as senate members.

Also taking part were members of the Palapes, Suksis, Palapes Udara UMS, Sispa and Palapes Laut contingents, with the accompaniment of PDRM Brass Band.

Harun extended an invitation to the Mayor Datuk Abidin Madingkir who was also present and citizens to attend the university's Tamu Gadang, to 'enjoy the eco-campus atmosphere'.

"Today, we always hear about unemployment problem among graduates. Is it true that there is a shortage of job opportunities or whether there is a surplus of graduates in the country?

"Are the graduates lacking in terms of appearance that employers would be reluctant to hire them? No matter what, the choice is in our hands. Should we just throw in the towel?

"Nowadays, you have numerous options, either in the public or private sectors. It is up to you how you want to shape your future," he said.

Meanwhile, Madingkir during the presentation of the key to the city to the graduates said the key is a symbol of recognition to the graduates as an educated and professional generation, primed to become leaders of the nation.

"I hope Kota Kinabalu had given you fond memories and I believe, during the years you were here, surely you have gone through a lot of ups and downs. Cherish those experiences as you go on your life's journey," he said.