

UMS wants business students to become job creators

By Shalina Roseni

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) wants students from its business school to become job creators after graduation.

"The latest report projected that the employability of UMS graduates is at 56%," said UMS deputy vice-chancellor (research and innovation) Professor Dr Shahril Yusof when officiating the university's Business Innovation Carnival 2 here yesterday.

"About 10% of you will further your studies to acquire your masters or PhD, and will end up becoming lecturers in the future. So what of the remaining figure of about 30%? Where would they end up?"

"We are not just job seekers but instead we have to become job creators," said Dr Shahril.

"You were given a basic knowledge and basic idea of how to run a business. Therefore, you, the remainder of the percentage, should become job creators.

"Look and venture into business upon graduation. Doing business these days is not like doing business 40 years ago. You may run your business from home or office, sometimes you may not even need a physical office," he added.

He said in terms of this job

creation, UMS and higher learning institutions are slowly creating work opportunities for students.

"For your information, a similar opportunity was given to students from computer studies to format a program for the university," he said.

"You should look at your fellow students and find those who can work with you so that you can form a small group to start business after graduating. If you can come up with proposals, then some of the projects can be given to this group of students. This should be our way of moving forward with the reality of employability," he added.

However, the deputy vice chancellor had a different advice for the students who would like to enter the working force in the hospitality industry.

He said the industry usually required for employees to start working from the bottom before they could make it to the top. Therefore, students should capitalize on this experience so they could become an asset to their employers.

"The hotel industry does not require you to have a masters in order to be a manager, nor can you be a manager straight away. You may be in the housekeeping department and have to learn

everything from a to z in the housekeeping department. It is the same if you are in the kitchen or doing accounting. You must go through all the process to become a good human resource in the hotel.

"Students must not only continue to be innovative and creative but also brave as it is an important aspect in the business world," added Dr Shahril.

The first business innovation carnival was held by students from the Business, Economics and Accountancy Faculties last year.

Several activities are lined up during the carnival each year, such as team-building games and talks. The innovative projects of the faculty's final year students were also exhibited.

Speaking at the ceremony, the faculty's dean, Associate Professor Dr Rasid Mail, said that the carnival is not only a good platform for the faculties' students to apply what they have studied but also created another outlet for them to gain hands-on experience by running the event themselves.

"Times is getting more challenging in this industry, so we need to cultivate the level of competitiveness in the students before they graduate from UMS," said Dr Rasid.