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UMS should be recognised as leading resource centre

KOTA KINABALU: The time has come for research centres at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to be recognised and given the freedom and autonomy in order to be the leading resource centre, Sabah Tourism, Culture & Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun said.

He said the centres such as the Marine Borneo Research Institute, Tropical Biology & Conservation Institute, and Biotechnology Research Institute should have the freedom to collaborate and find strategic partners, as well as collecting external funds and have a professional management team.

"These strategies are important to ensure the research institutions can build credibility in focused research and also to strengthen UMS position," he said when closing the university's Research & Innovation Competition here, yesterday.

He said UMS should increase the institutions' leverage, abilities and credibility as an effort to raise their research contribution to spur the country's growth.

Meanwhile, Masidi also reminded the students to equip themselves with necessary skills as a preparation to face strong competition especially in the globalisation era.

He added that the skills could be obtained through research culture that was crucial in creating new knowledge.

"The creations that were made in this competition should not end here, instead it should be a starting point to a better relationship between the university and the industry.

"The creations in this competition can attract the industry players to exploit these creations for commercial purposes," he said.

Earlier, UMS vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon said the winners of the competition would be chosen to compete at the national and international level. - Bernama