

UMS: Skills make graduates marketable

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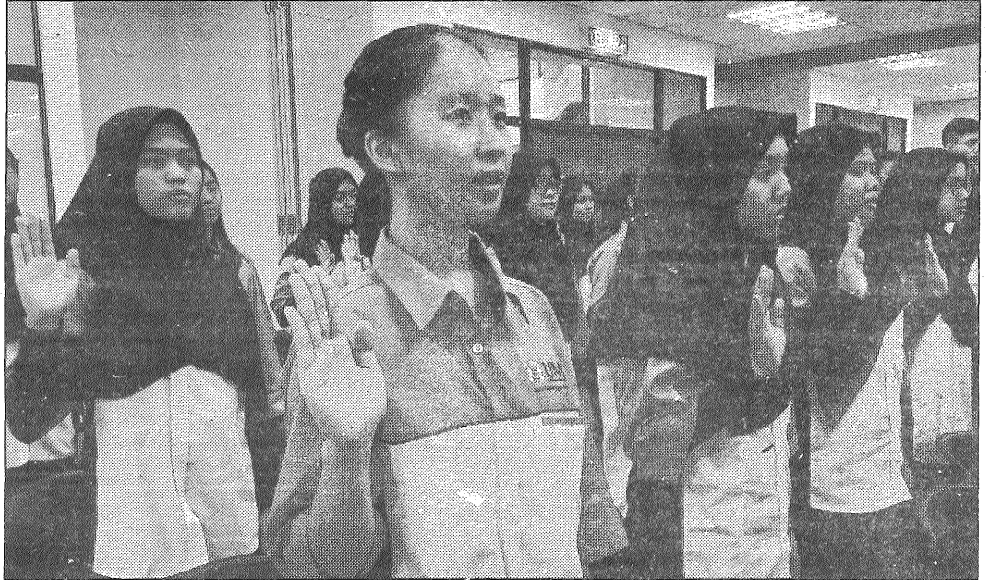
KOTA KINABALU: The development of soft skills is one of the areas emphasized by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) whose vision is to produce well-balanced and marketable graduates.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Prof Dr Rasid Mail said it has been the institution's mission to foster not only academically strong students but also those who are able to communicate, adapt and are alert to current issues.

"Learning, here, is not simply about passing; many graduates who scored excellent CGPAs could not land jobs and fail during interviews because they do not possess soft skills required by the industry."

On the Foundation level, he said, it is among the main areas that will be highlighted to prepare students for their Bachelor's Degree later.

He was speaking during the closing ceremony of "Majlis Suai Mesra" for 2018/2019 students of Science Foundation programme at UMS



Students taking their oaths at UMS yesterday.

Preparatory Centre of Science and Technology (PPST) here yesterday.

According to him, it is crucial to keep abreast of latest developments be it on economics, socio-economics or even political culture when being in the university.

Not only that, he reminded students to learn to adapt to

changes and plan ahead their future direction rather than being enrolled in Foundation level simply for the sake of their parents.

"It's not early for you to start identifying where you want to go; ask yourself – what is your strength, weakness and what are the opportunities available in the

open market.

"In UMS, you need to be ready to face a more opened learning system that awaits your intellectual maturity."

A total of 312 students will take up the Science Foundation programme this year.

Also present was PPST director Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sazmal Effendi Arshad.