

4,720 students enrolled at UMS

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By Chok Sim Yee

KOTA KINABALU: Some 4,720 new students have enrolled into Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) for the 2017/2018 session. Of the number, around 3,500 are enrolled in UMS Kota Kinabalu campus, 800 in Labuan campus and 300 in Sandakan campus.

Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni, Professor Dr Ismail Ali, said the 4,720 new students included 2,121 (45 per cent) from Sabah, 2,293 (49 per cent) from West Malaysia, Sarawak and Labuan and 306 (six per cent) international students.

He added that the 306 international students hailed from 17 countries, namely, China (225 students), Brunei (33), Fiji (1), Germany (1), Yemen (1), Pakistan (2), Myanmar (10), Afghanistan (1), Bangladesh (9), Indonesia (7), Laos (3), Saudi Arabia (3), Thailand (3), Turkey (1) Vietnam (2) and others.

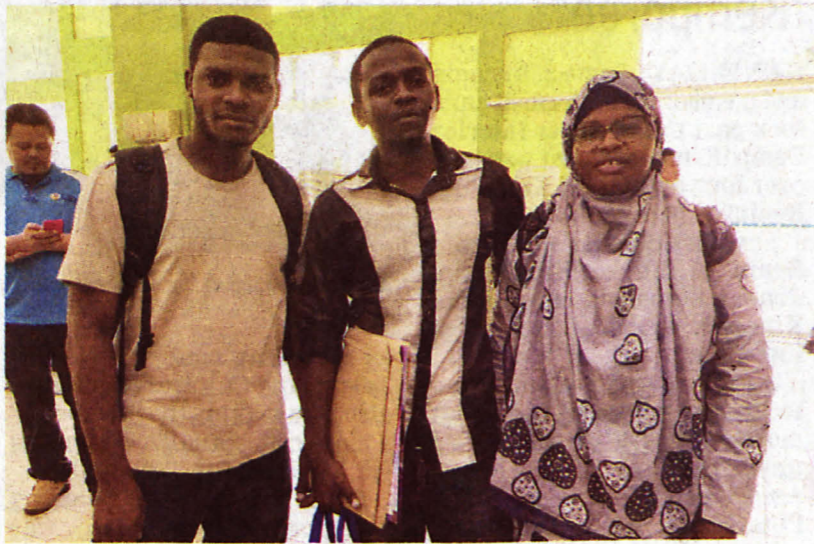
"Out of the total number of new students, 1,436 (30 percent) are men while 3,284 (70 percent) are women," Dr Ismail said to the media at the registration of the students here yesterday.

In addition, he said UMS also offered 200 spots for students in the Bottom 40 percent (B40) income group under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme.

"We have provided the B40 students with many facilities including pocket money while they await for their National Higher Education Fund (PTPTN) loan.

"UMS has never sidelined underprivileged students as the university takes it as our responsibility to provide education in a fair manner to all people of Sabah and Malaysia."

Dr Ismail said the university had also accepted 19 students with special needs (OKU) this year. The OKU students will be allocated rooms on the ground floor of UMS residential colleges and provided with vehicles to drive them to classes.



From left, Suleiman, Iddi and Buthaina from Tanzania registering themselves at UMS yesterday.

All the registered students will be staying at the residential colleges and are to take part in the orientation week in order to prepare themselves for campus life.



Dr Ismail (standing, third left) assisting the new students with their registration.

He said the new students would also attend talks pertaining to the National Transformation 2050 (TN50) plan, Rukun Negara, Industrial Revolution 4.0, and talks by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman on national policies and Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak on the meaning of independence.

Meanwhile, Buthaina Isihaka Sudi, 19, is one of the three

students from Tanzania who have enrolled in UMS for the 2017/2018 session. All three of the Tanzanian students, Buthaina, Iddi Athumam Dugilo, 22, and Suleiman Haji Nassor, 22, have received full scholarship from the Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia to pursue their tertiary education here.

They are the fifth batch of Tanzanians who enrolled in UMS, following five of their seniors.

Buthaina said she decided to pursue her undergraduate study at UMS as her research found that UMS is one of the good universities in Malaysia which offered Bachelor in Software Engineering.

"This university is also ranked ninth in Malaysia," she said.

Although she has yet to visit other places in Sabah, Buthaina said her first impression of Kota Kinabalu was good.