

# Group to submit petition for Sabahan VC in UMS

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Gabungan Muda Sabah (GEMA) intends to protest and submit a petition to demand that the appointment of the vice-chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) be given to a local Sabahan.

Organising Chairman of the protest, Ir Jovilis Majami, who is also youth chief of Parti Harapan Rakyat Sabah (Harapan Rakyat), said yesterday that the group will submit a letter to inform the police that a signed petition will be submitted to UMS on June 16.

Apart from that, another letter of notification will be sent to the Ministry of Higher Education informing them that GEMA will be organising a petition signature drive which will be submitted to the UMS administration office on the same day at 2pm.

Jovilis said the ministry should take heed and honour the Borneonisation safeguard as contained in the Malaysia Agreement 1963, and the Inter-Governmental Committee Report 1962 when selecting candidates for the new UMS Vice Chancellor.

"The Federal Government must take an open-minded approach



The Gabungan Muda Sabah protest committee showing the petition which will be submitted to UMS.

and heed the sensitivities of the people of Sabah and the Malaysia Agreement 1963 be honoured, respected and preserved 54 years since the formation of Malaysia. It is unfortunate that Sabah, being equal partners with Malaya and Sarawak fell far behind in terms of infrastructure development and even education. Accordingly, the appointment of a Sabahan vice-chancellor will be one of the steps to uphold Sabahan Rights under the MA63," he said.

Jovilis invites all 'anak Sabah'

to stand up regardless of their respective political background and beliefs and voice out our rights and aspirations for the future of our next generation.

"Our intention is not to disrupt the learning system and administration of education in Malaysia but the objective is to advise the Federal Government to respect the rights of the people of Sabah and the Sabah State Government to defend our rights, and not become puppets of the federal government," he said.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman recently said the state government wants a Sabahan to take over as UMS vice-chancellor.

He said there were enough qualified Sabahans to replace the university's retiring vice-chancellor Professor Dr Harun Abdullah.

"I have raised this issue with the ministry in charge and expressed my hope that the next UMS vice-chancellor should be from Sabah," Musa said.