

# Upko Youth backs call for Sabahan as new UMS V-C

Tracy Patrick WE 3.6.2017 3

KOTA KINABALU: Upko Youth has come out in support of the Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman's recommendation that the new Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice Chancellor should be a Sabahan.

At the same time, Upko Youth Chief Arthur Sen said they also agreed with the press statements by Upko Vice President Datuk Marcus Mojigoh and PBS Acting President Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili that the appointment to the post must take into account the rights of Sabah as stipulated in the Malaysia Agreement 1963.

"We in the Upko Youth know there are guidelines on the selection of Vice Chancellor. We know that the criteria includes various accomplishments, especially in the academic field, the candidate's integrity, discipline and leadership quality required to lead a higher institute of learning.

"We also know there are many quality Sabahans who fulfil the criteria and have served the university for a long time," he said.

Arthur said the proposal that a Sabahan be appointed to the post is not based solely on parochialism and the Borneonisation terms under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 but also takes into account the intrinsic value that the university is situated in Sabah.

One of the criteria in the selection guidelines is that the candidate must be an academician who has proven his credibility in his field and able to provide excel-

lent academic leadership not only to the undergraduates but also to researchers, other academicians and the society as a whole.

"Since the community value is also included in the criteria, then only real Sabahans have better understanding of the values of Sabah's multiracial community. Real Sabahans who have lived and grew up in the society itself would have already immersed themselves with the intrinsic values of the society.

"In line with the standing of UMS, the only Sabah-based university, of course the people would want this institution to achieve a high prestige based on the 'Glokal' concept, introduced by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak not so long ago," he said.

Glokal is a combination of two words; global and local. The concept aims to produce a society that appreciates its roots and local values while, at the same time, instil a global mindset.

In the context of Sabah society, Arthur said Upko Youth wanted the Glokal concept applied for the local community.

"Therefore, in taking the intrinsic values and glokal concept, coupled with the Borneonisation element in the Malaysia Agreement 1963 and without compromising the guidelines to elect a candidate to the post, we in Upko Youth propose that the appointment of UMS Vice Chancellor be made from among local Sabahans," he said.