

University graduates must be English proficient – Shafie

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KOTA KINABALU: University graduates must be versed in English without sidelining the national language.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal said to better interact with the outside world, one must have good command of languages especially English.

Speaking when presenting the scrolls to some 824 graduates of Business, Economic and Accounting Faculty during the third session of the 21st Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) convocation on Sunday, Shafie who is also UMS pro-chancellor said the tertiary institution is not just a place to create knowledgeable graduates but also a platform to promote integration amongst its diverse students.

The campus is where undergraduates from different districts and racial background come together and learn about unity.

He reminded that university management and staff should recognise students based on their achievements and not their backgrounds, as these future thinkers will not be able to develop the nation together if they are segregated.

“We want citizens who can contribute to society and various sectors, so every student should be treated equally to ensure the country and state prosper.

“A student should not be judged or rewarded based on where he or she came from but their dedication and efforts in their academic field,” he said.

There were a total of 4,159

graduates during the three-day convocation.

At the same time, he expressed hope that the university would continue churning out graduates in line with the current demands of industries to ensure they are employable after graduating.

“I hope courses in this state will be expanded to include newer technologies and those which can cater to the manpower need for agriculture and food security, for example.

“We also need our graduates to not only sharpen their English to face globalisation but also adapt to latest knowledge and changes.

“We may not be able to get lecturers from renowned institutions like Harvard to attach with UMS, but maybe we can invite them to do interactive talks here,” he added.



Shafie presenting a scroll to one of the graduates of UMS Business, Economic and Accounting Faculty.