

Sabah CM: Universities a platform for integration, not just knowledge

Sunday, 24 Nov 2019

12:43 PM MYT

By KRISTY INUS



KOTA KINABALU: The tertiary institution is not just a place to create knowledgeable graduates but also a platform to promote integration amongst its diverse students.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal (*pic*) said 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 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 (Nov 24).

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.