



Pang (fourth right) presenting the award to Kamaruzaman.

Ministry's Special Award for UMS V-C

Durie Rainer Fong

KOTA KINABALU: It is said when you love your job, you haven't worked a single day in your life.

This best describes Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice-Chancellor Datuk Seri Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon who has never considered himself to be working but rather engaging in a hobby as an educator.

And now the first Sabahan UMS Vice-Chancellor has been recognised for his work with the Sabah Youth and Sports Ministry's Special Award for youth development, which he won during the recent State-level Youth Day celebration.

The 57-year-old collected the award from Deputy Chief Minister cum Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Peter Pang at the latter's office here, Tuesday.

"I feel honoured and privileged to receive the award.

"I've been a lecturer for the past 30 years and feel humbled to accept this because I'm doing something (I consider) as my hobby and suddenly given an award for it ...I only want to do my work tapuk-tapuk (behind the scenes),"

Kamaruzaman said, adding he had always had an affinity for teaching and developing the young.

"Not only simply helping bright students but also the not-so-bright ones, we have to make them better and turn them into good students to be ready to enter the job market."

Although next year would be retirement year for him, he hoped to pave the way for other Sabahans to assume the top position in Sabah's premier learning institution and leave them with something to work with.

"Hopefully, many more Sabahans will be the Vice-Chancellor of UMS in future...but now we have to make it a good landasan (tracks), my work is not done yet."

Towards this end, Pang felt it was fitting for Kamaruzaman, who he described as his good friend, to get the award, saying he was a tough act to follow.

Meanwhile, Kamaruzaman said he wanted to make the UMS branch campus in Sandakan, which would focus on modern agriculture, as good as the other schools in the university here.