

# UMS to undergo changes with budget cut

**KOTA KINABALU:** A total of RM233.3 million was allocated to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) this year, an eight percent reduction compared with the RM253.6 million allocation in 2009, said Vice Chancellor Brigadier General Professor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Hj Ampon.

"Based on the 2010 allocation, only RM400,000 was approved under the one-off policy for outstation trips," he said at the signing ceremony of UMS programs for 2010 and 2011 with 28 department heads here yesterday.

He explained that the Finance Ministry's allocations to the 20 higher learning institutes (IPTA) under the Ministry of Higher Education was slashed by 15 percent, from RM8.1 billion in 2009 to RM6.89 billion this year.

"The allocations for the higher learning institutions were reduced by between five percent to 34 percent."

Hence, Kamaruzaman said UMS would have to undergo an outcome-based budgeting to cope with the RM20.3 million reduction.

"The government spending will be focused on value for money projects or programs that provide high impact."

Among other changes the university

will undergo include giving priority to emolument expenses, utilities and contracts that are still effective this year, tighter control over outstation trips, giving priority to one-off allocation, and stricter control on organizing seminars, retreats, ceremonies and other events.

"I also urge the treasurer and registrar to monitor financial misconduct in UMS and take appropriate action to reinforce the Discipline and Conduct Committee," said Kamaruzaman.

In addition, the university launched its E-Perolehan System developed by the Media and Technology Education Unit and the Finance Department yesterday.

"This is an effort to ease the service delivery system related to income management more effectively and transparently," Kamaruzaman said, adding the system was expected to be completed in May 2010.

Also present were UMS treasurer Hj Rizal Othman, deputy vice chancellor of Academic and International Affairs Professor Dr Amran Ahmed, deputy vice chancellor of Student and Alumni Affairs Professor Madya Dr Kassim Hj Md Mansur, UMS registrar Abdullah Hj Mohd Said and UMS chief librarian Dayang Rukiah Ag Amit.



From left, Amran, Abdullah, Rizal and Kamaruzaman at the signing ceremony.