

# Sabah Bersatu supports appointment of new UMS VC

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) welcomes and fully supports the Education Minister's decision to appoint Professor Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin as the new Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice Chancellor.

Sabah Bersatu also thinks that meritocracy should be the main factor to be considered when filling important posts in the public universities.

Sabah Bersatu's Angkatan Bersatu Anak Muda (Armada) chief Mohd Isquzawan Israq Datuk Arsit said besides "merit", the quality of candidate is also another most important consideration.

"We are confident the Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik has taken into consideration these criteria when he made the decision.

"Sabah Bersatu welcomes and fully

supports the decision to appoint Prof Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin as the new UMS VC, he said in a statement yesterday.

Isquzawan was commenting on the appointment of Dr Taufiq as the UMS Vice Chancellor effective July 30, 2019 to July 29, 2022.

The Education Minister, in a statement on Saturday, said Dr Taufiq would succeed Datuk Professor Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin whose tenure has ended.

"This appointment was based on his expertise and high academic qualification, at both national or international level.

"The Ministry believes his appointment will be able to steer UMS towards greater higher level of excellence," he said in the statement.

Prof Taufiq, 51, who hails from Kota

Kinabalu, is a professor at the Science Faculty, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

He obtained his doctorate degree in Heterogeneous Catalysis from Manchester Institute of Science and Technology University, United Kingdom in 1997.

He had served as UPM's hostel campus head and Catalysis Science and Technology research centre head in the past. He had been appointed as Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK in 2008 and visiting researcher/professor at several renowned universities overseas.

He had received several awards in UPM, and was also the recipient of the national Maulidur Rasul award for his contribution in promoting Islamic harmony as well as his contribution to research and higher education.