

Four candidates shortlisted for UMS vice-chancellor position

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KOTA KINABALU: Three Sabahans are among four candidates shortlisted to become the new vice-chancellor (VC) of Universiti Malaysia Sabah, according to reliable sources from the education front on Friday.

The fourth candidate, who is a non-Sabahan currently with UMS, were said to be among the shortlisted candidates to take over as vice chancellor from Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin, whose three-year contract was cut short by a year.

Dr Kamarudin shortened contract ends on Sunday (July 28) and the sources said that they expect the new vice chancellor to be named by early next week.

A source from the Education Ministry circles said that all the candidates have gone through the interview with the ministry earlier this week on Wednesday.

The sources said that the

candidates were also interviewed at the university level prior to senior ministry officials carrying out the second interview.

Of the three Sabahans, two are currently academicians with UMS while the third is attached to another university in Peninsular Malaysia, the sources said.

"I believe the decision has been arrived, we hoped to hear announcements soon," said the source.

Another reliable source close to the university officials echoed the same, adding that they can expect the announcement on the new VC to be revealed as early as Monday (July 29).

The post of the university VC became a hot topic after Dr Kamarudin, a Sabah-born from Kota Belud district, had his term shortened from the original tenure until June 2020.

Dr Kamarudin had previ-

ously stated that he was agreeable to the decision by Education Minister Maszlee Malik and believed the decision was made professionally.

Fueling the guessing game was Sabah writer Musli Oli who claimed in his Facebook posting that Sabahan Prof Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin was widely tipped to be the front runner of the UMS VC post.

However in his postings, he laments that Dr Taufiq, who is currently working in a university in the peninsula, had never held any senior post including that of a dean or deputy dean.

"My question is... are there no deputy vice-chancellors from UMS who are qualified to hold the VC post since they were not called for interview?" Musli said in his posting on Thursday amid speculations among Sabah's academia.



Outgoing UMS VC Prof Datuk D Kamarudin at the Istana on Wednesday.