

UMS vice chancellor receives special award

KOTA KINABALU: It was nothing more than a 'hobby' but it was that passion which brought honour to Professor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon yesterday.

Feeling very honoured and privileged, the 57-year-old Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) vice chancellor never thought that anyone would notice his work.

"I only want to do my work tapuk-tapuk (unseen). Helping the not so bright and not so good students to realise their dreams... so this is a real honour," he said.

Being the first Sabahan to head UMS, the third vice chancellor for the university, his works towards youth development has won himself the special award from the Youth and Sports Ministry, which he garnered during the recent state-level Youth Day celebration.

Deputy Chief Minister cum Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Peter Pang presented the award to Kamaruzaman during a simple-yet-memorable occasion here.

Kamaruzaman said being a lecturer for the past 30



Kamaruzaman (second left) receiving the special award from Pang.

years, he had never stopped loving his career, adding he hoped to help more underachievers to have a second chance in life.

"This is what makes UMS special compared to the rest of the universities. Every university would want to take in the best students, but we offer a chance to the not so good ones too. We insert the values and skills to make them marketable, to be ready for the job market, something which is not emphasised by other higher learning institutions.

"We want to make learning enjoyable. This is my mission in life," he said.

With his term ending by

June next year, Kamaruzaman hopes to pave the way for more Sabahans to assume the top position in Sabah's premier learning institution.

"I believe we have to make it good, my work is not done yet."

Pang, who described Kamaruzaman as 'my good friend', believes the latter deserves the award for the amount of work he had put in youth development in Sabah.

"This is a special award given biennially. We have a committee to select a recipient and we are proud and happy that we have chosen the right person for

the award.

"It is my hope that the youths in Sabah will follow him by example. It is an achievement," he said.

On another development, Kamaruzaman said he would want to make the UMS branch campus in the Sandakan education hub to be as good as the other schools in the varsity here.

With 300 acres for UMS, they will be setting up the School of Sustainable Agriculture, which would offer more than just conventional agriculture courses.

"This a new kind of agriculture course, it is for the future. I want to see Sandakan develop," he said.