

# Kamaruzaman gets special Youth & Sports award from ministry

KOTA KINABALU: Brigadier General Professor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Haji Kamaruzaman Ampon was awarded a special Youth & Sports award by the Ministry of Youth & Sports in recognition for his work in line with youth development.

The special award which is only given once every two years was presented to him personally by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Youth & Sports Datuk Peter Pang En Yin at the ministry's office yesterday.

Kamaruzaman said that he felt honoured and privileged to receive the award although he did not expect to receive it for doing something that he loved.

"I wanted to do my work, which is to help bright and not so bright students to become better, unnoticed but then I was given this award," he said to reporters after the award ceremony.

Kamaruzaman said that he has been a lecturer for almost 30 years since he graduated and that his mission in life is to make education enjoyable and to insert values and soft skills into students to make them employable in the workforce market.

"This is something of our

specialty in our university (Universiti Malaysia Sabah) which is not something that is emphasised in other universities," he said.

Pang said Kamaruzaman was given the award after a committee had decided to recognise his work for youth development.

"The committee is proud and happy to have chosen the right person to have this honour for a local boy from Tawau. This award is in line with youth development and he has become a good example with his supreme status in Sabah and we hope that the youth will follow his example of his achievements," he said.

Kamaruzaman was born in Tawau and studied in SM Sung Siew in Sandakan where he was rejected by other schools there.

During his tertiary education, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom and went on to study for his Master of Science in Biochemistry from the University of York in the UK.

Kamaruzaman received his PhD in Biochemistry from the Ohio State University in the United States.

Kamaruzaman began his career in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) as the Dean of Student Affairs in 1995 where he was responsible for the development of student affairs facilities and hostels.

During his tenure as the deputy vice-chancellor (research & development), he oversaw the building of university infrastructures and academic buildings and was responsible for dealing with central agencies in implementing development projects in UMS.

Kamaruzaman is the third vice-chancellor of the university and is the first Sabahan to hold the post.

Among his other achievements, Kamaruzaman is a panel advisor to the National Unity & Integration Department and an exco member of the National Crime Prevention Foundation.

He is also the chairman of the Research Advisors Group of the Sabah Development Corridor (SDC).

Meanwhile, Kamaruzaman said that UMS is planning to build a School of Sustainable Agriculture in the around 300 acres of land that was allocated to them in the Sandakan Education Hub. — *Casey Lee*