

Be job creators, grads told

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KOTA KINABALU: Chief Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal has urged graduates of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to use their training to become job creators and generate opportunities for themselves rather than becoming job seekers.

In his first keynote address as the University's Pro-Chancellor, Shafie underlined graduates should look beyond job seeking and be more innovative in creating new jobs while diversifying their skills, knowledge and experience to gain the edge in today's increasingly competitive jobs market.

"With stiffer competition for jobs, graduates need to be positive and more proactive in creating new opportunities and improving themselves, being multi-skilled are qualities that are in high demand by employers because not everyone can connect ideas with expertise.

"And by having diverse skill sets and capabilities, graduates enjoy greater returns and are highly sought by many industries," said Shafie who outlined employers are on the look-out for digital talent as well as graduates with capabilities in developing new products.

"In a rapidly transforming world on the cusp of the fourth Industrial Revolution, graduates need to be prepared and be wiser in approaching new challenges to achieve success and remain competitive," he told graduates at the 2nd day of the UMS Convocation Ceremony yesterday.

In his address, Shafie highlighted the Sabah government through the tabling of the budget 2019 has outlined key strategies to accelerate



Shafie presenting a graduate with his scroll at the 2nd day of the 20th UMS Convocation Ceremony yesterday.

economic growth which will be linked with efforts to enhance the welfare and livelihoods of the people.

To meet this objective, he said the leadership has undertaken a number of practical and redressal initiatives which included the establishment of new ministries such as the Sabah Ministry of Education and Innovation, Ministry of Health and People's Wellbeing and Ministry of Law and Native Affairs.

"Enhancing human capital development is paramount for Sabah, and the government has allocated RM238.37 million in the Budget 2019 to support initiatives to boost the quality and standard of human capital," said Shafie.

He underlined education is a necessary factor for Sabah

to pursue advancement at par with developed countries such as Japan, China, South Korea and Singapore who achieved success through the development of highly skilled and qualified human capital in diverse fields.

Apart from that, Shafie said the government also increased allocations for scholarships and Sabah Student Assistance, with RM53 million set aside for 2019 under the Sabah Education and Innovation Ministry, which is an increment from RM37 million in 2018.

With the increase in allocation, Shafie said this would give expand opportunities for more Sabahan youths to further their studies and training to higher education institutions locally and internationally.