

Work as a team, new UMS BOD Chairman Masidi urges staff

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Masidi launching the UMS-level National Month.

KOTA KINABALU: Newly-appointed Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Board of Directors Chairman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun urged UMS staff to work as a team to achieve the goals and mission of the university.

He said every goal outlined will be easier to manifest if all staff can set their mindset and see the duties and responsibilities carried out in the university as an act which brings good.

"At UMS, there should be no other team in the administration, everyone should work as Team UMS, because in the end, the university is for all of us.

"We must see this university beyond self-interest to drive it forward. We are also able to do a good job for the university if we consider what we do as an act of good," he said.

He said this while addressing a ceremony in conjunction with his appointment, attended by key officers and heads of the UMS departments, at the Chancellery Building, early Thursday.

He added that treating every daily task as a hobby also helps each employee to love the job more and strive for personal career development.

"When something we do becomes a hobby, we are more likely to continue to do research and dig for knowledge on something we are interested in, and this in turn helps in the development of self-potential," he said.

He also called on staff, both academic and administrative, to cultivate the principal of thirst for knowledge.

"It is better for lecturers to have knowledge of various disciplines compared to only having existing expertise," he said.

He also agreed with the UMS approach to focus on some research niches as stated by UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin, especially studies related to smart agriculture.

"Sabah has vast land for agriculture and this is good not only for the university to explore opportunities in the field of agriculture but also to be a leader to open the minds of farmers and encourage young farmers in modern agriculture.

“It is very important for universities to study various food crop alternatives, because for example about 70 per cent of rice in Malaysia is imported from abroad, and food supply will be affected if trade activities or bilateral relations with foreign countries are affected,” he said.

The ceremony also saw Masidi launching the National Month and the Kibar Jalur Gemilang Campaign at UMS level.