

# Hajiji: As an investor-friendly state, Sabah in dire need of knowledgeable and skilled graduates

By **Ersie Anjumin** - October 3, 2023 @ 5:57pm



Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor who is also the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) witnessed the recitation of 'Aku Janji' Pledge by the new students at the UMS Chancellor Hall here today. - Pic courtesy of Chief Minister Department

KOTA KINABALU: Higher education institutions including Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) are encouraged to strengthen cooperation with industry players in research, development, commercialisation and innovation.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said in the education context, the 12th Malaysia Plan outlined a focus on developing future talent and improving the quality of education.

He said it is important for students to meet the standards in education and in industries.

He urged UMS to embrace its role and produce more highly competitive and innovative graduates who will meet the needs of a skilled workforce locally and abroad

"As an investor-friendly state, we are in dire need of knowledgeable and skilled graduates to meet the demands of industries.

" I hope UMS will be a university that is capable of producing future-ready graduates," Hajiji said at a pledge-taking ceremony for orientation week involving new UMS students at its Chancellory Hall here today.

Present were the new UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor and UMS board chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan.



The new Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students reciting 'Aku Janji' Pledge at the UMS Chancellory Hall here today. - NSTP/ ERSIE ANJUMIN

A total of 4,721 students are part of UMS' 2023/2024 new intake. Of that amount, 66 per cent or 3,108 students are from Sabah, 1,012 from peninsula, 513 from Sarawak, 65 from Labuan and 22 are international students.

Meanwhile, Kasim in his speech said a RM1 million fund has been approved by the Higher Education Minister to upgrade special infrastructure facilities for students with disabilities.

"UMS also provides special vans and suitable residential colleges for these students. For the convenience of students this year, the UMS management approved an allocation of RM4.9 million for the purchase of eight new buses," he said adding there were 28 buses available for the students.

He added under the Higher Education Ministry's Prihatin KRIS programme, UMS has been allocated RM3 million to buy five hospital vehicles including ambulances, vans

for mobile dental clinics, lorries for mobile clinics clinic, four-wheel drive vehicles and coaster buses.

This will also allow medical and nursing students to carry out health programme activities in rural or rural areas, he said.

"All these show UMS's determination to produce well-balanced students and gives a high-quality educational experience during their time at UMS," said Kasim while urging every student to explore every opportunity at university to improve their skills.