MUSA: EDUCATION OUR TOP PRIORITY

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KOTA KINABALU: The state government will remain committed to improving the quality of education in Sabah.

Among the efforts being made included the provision of modern facilities such as the education hub in Sandakan which will have public and private universities and training centres to produce quality human capital with first class mentality.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman said this when officiating at the oath-taking and "I Pledge" ceremony for new Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students here yesterday.

He said in line with the objective to make Malaysia a centre of knowledge in the ASEAN region, the government has taken steps to bring tertiary education to a higher level.

"To realise this vision, the university is constantly striving to achieve academic excellence in various fields. And, it is also making efforts to gain international recognitions," he said, adding that among the efforts included research and community service.

Musa also said the main UMS campus here which was built in 1995, was equipped with modern facilities and has quality teaching manpower.

The university has also set up a campus in Labuan and another in Sandakan, apart from its bio research centre in Kimanis, health service centre in Matunggong, Kudat as well as a marine research centre in Semporna.

The Chief Minister added that UMS was also in the midst of setting up its own university hospital.

"All these prove to the new students that they are in a higher learning institution that is adequately equipped.

"As such, they must make full use of the facilities available at the campus to gain knowledge so as to have a good future," he said.

Musa added that being "citizens" of the campus meant a new life which is different from the one they had experienced before.

"Therefore, I wish to stress here that you must abide by the rules of the campus, be responsible as students and always inculcate positive values," he said.

He also told the students to focus on acquiring knowledge.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that if they fulfilled their responsibility as students, they would become the pride of their families, people and nation in four to five years.