KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) six-gold medal and top 10 finish target was achieved in the 3rd Malaysian Higher Institution Games (SUKIPIT) in Johore which concluded Friday.

They collected a total of six golds, five silvers and 12 bronzes to finish in seventh position among the 104 institutions participated.

It was their best achievement since the games started in 2012 where they only managed in 14th place and 11th in the following edition in 2014.

UMS deputy vice chancellor Professor Madya Dr Ismail Ali who was with the contingent at the closing ceremony said the success was the result of facilities provided and the moral support as well as encouragement from Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah who always pushes the students to aim for excellence not only in academics but also in non-academic sports.

He also praised the sports centre for their role in the success and the efforts by the athletes.

"Congrats to the sports centre for their input with a well planned preparation and also the athletes for their sacrifices in training to ensure our success in one of the largest games to be held in the country, and I hope they will continue the good work and prepare early for the 4th edition in 2018."

UMS contingent this year consisted 38 athletes and they took part in taekwondo, athletics, badminton, 10-pin bowling, pentagone, lawn bowl, karate, silat and beach volleyball.