KOTA KINABALU: A total of 4,579 new students for the 2016/2017 session took their oath at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday.

From the total, 47 per cent consist of Sabahans, 52 per cent are from Sarawak and the peninsula while the remaining 168 are international students.

The foreign students come from China, France, Germany, South Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Jordan, Korea, Vanuatu and Timor Leste.

In his speech, UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah reminded students to adhere to the university’s constitution, rules and codes of discipline.

He said it was not intended to restrict their freedom but to shape them to be disciplined individuals and prevent them from creating problems.

“Avoid taking part in activities that threaten the safety and harmony of society and the country. Do not be easily influenced or swayed by foreign elements that have no known agenda.

“All these will only damage your future because such activities can cause you to neglect and lose focus in your studies.

“I want to emphasise that the university will not compromise on matters that violate rules and discipline,” he said when speaking at the oath-taking ceremony of new students at the UMS Chancellery Hall here, yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Haji Aman who is also the Pro Chancellor of UMS.

Among others, the students made their pledge to achieve academic excellence, become disciplined individuals, to make quality a priority in their activities and to uplift the prestige of the university. – By Marryan Razan