Christinisiah (right) and two other undergraduates display their offer letters.

**UMS offers studies to 200 poor students**

**Ricardo Unto DE 4.9.192**

KOTA KINABALU: Financial constraints did not deter Christinisiah Juin to further her studies. Instead, it motivates her to pursue success in life.

The 20-year-old Orang Sungai from Kampung Saguon, Penangah, Tongod was among 200 undergraduates who received assistance through Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme for the 2017/2018 intake.

"I will be studying for a degree in social science (sociology and social anthropology) which was my first choice of study," she said when met during the registration of undergraduates at UMS, here, Sunday.

"My father is a farmer and my mother a housewife...I am the eldest of five siblings."

"My parents were a bit worried but they decided to let me further my studies. I would like to set a good example for my younger siblings."

Christinisiah, who aspires to become a teacher, said she worked as a shop assistant in Sepanggar for five months while waiting for offers from higher learning institutions.

"It was also part of my preparation to help my family while saving up to further my studies," she said.

The CSR programme was conducted for the fifth time by UMS for students from the B40 category (bottom 40 percent household income group) who have fulfilled the Central University Admission Unit's (UPU) minimum requirements.

Meanwhile, 19-year-old Buthaina Ishahaka Sudi from Tanzania was extremely elated to continue her studies in UMS.

"I will be studying software engineering. I have always wanted to study software engineering, so I did some researches on Malaysia and found out that UMS is a good university to do my degree in this field," she said.

She said she was among students from Tanzania sponsored by Saudi Arabia's Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

"IDB fully sponsors our studies here. This is my first time in Malaysia and it is really nice...I have not walked around much but based on the first impression, it is really good."

Both Christinisiah and Buthaina were among the 4,720 undergraduates who registered in UMS for the 2017/2018 intake on Sunday.

UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) Prof Dr Ismail Ali said of the figure, 2,121 or 45 percent were from Sabah while 49 percent were from the peninsula, Labuan and Sarawak and the other six percent international students.

"The international students came from China, Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam, among others."

"For the gender percentage, 3,284 or 70 per cent of the new intake are women while the rest are men," he said.

"There are also 19 disabled undergraduates who are placed at the ground floors of residential colleges to facilitate their movement and a special vehicle will also be provided to help them attend classes."

The new intake are required to stay in residential colleges throughout the orientation week as part of the preparation for them to adapt to campus life.