KOTA KINABALU: Pre-university students are encouraged to create ways to motivate themselves and pursue their studies to the next level.

Head of Student Affairs of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Ahmad Nordin said motivation is the key for every student to push their potential until they get into university.

"Students should build their self-confidence from being in school (pre-university) before heading to the university," he said at the closing ceremony of the pre-university students programme here yesterday.

The programme called "Se-langkah ke Menara Gading" (SEMega) 2018 was introduced in 2004 to future UMS students.

"This programme gives insight to future students and they can see how it is like in campus life, classroom, lecture hall among others and even our tourism attraction, our Campus Aquarium.

"Through the three days and two nights programme, I am sure that all the seniors (facilitators) can share a lot of their own life campus experience with the students," Ahmad said.

According to Ahmad, the programme would continue next year with new approach and fresh ideas.

"We are planning fresh ideas because students nowadays are more exposed to technologies. "I think, we (university) should come with new approach and contents in programme like this to make sure that it will give positive impact to the participants," he added.

A total of 196 students from 20 schools all around Sabah attended the programme.

Among them were from Beaufort, Keningau, Kinabatangan, Kota Belud, Kota Marudu, Kuala Penyu, Kunak, Membakut, Papar, Penampang, Ranau, Menumbok, Beluran dan Kota Kinabalu.

Also present were UMS president of student representatives for session 2017/2018, Jusman Nali and director of the programme, Suzanne Chee Sudan.