Pursuing knowledge, striving for excellence: vital endeavours for UMS students – Shafie

By MOHD IZHIM HASHIM

KOTA Kinabalu: Pursuing knowledge, and striving for excellence in academic and personal development are important endeavours for students of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal.

"The journey to realize your full potential begins with acquiring knowledge, followed by continuous self-development, determination to succeed while upholding high moral values in order to become qualified professionals who work towards contributing for the betterment of society," he said.

This was the Chief Minister’s message at the welcoming ceremony for 4,529 newly-enrolled UMS students for the 2018/2019 intake which was held at the Vice-Chancellor's Hall yesterday.

In his keynote address, Shafie underlined the importance of developing high moral values and ethics while pursuing for knowledge, and called on students to build a positive attitude and mindset towards learning and expanding their knowledge in campus.

"Keeping motivated, perseverance and being prepared to work hard are helpful personality traits for university students to develop the love for learning to help them fully master the knowledge in their choice of study course," he said. The text of his speech was presented by Minister of Education and Innovation, Datuk Dr Yusof Yaacob.

Shafie lauded UMS for the university’s contribution in adding value and uplifting the standard of life and the economic welfare of society.

"UMS has generated development transformation that has grown rapidly while contributing to the advancement of the people in Sabah," he added.

The hall was at full capacity with students dressed in their purple uniforms who also took part in the oath-taking ceremony which was witnessed by UMS Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dato’ Dr. D. Kamarudin Md. Md. who was also accompanied by university academic staff and dignitaries.

This year’s intake also saw an increase in Sabahan students with 3,639 students which is an increase of 15 per cent from the previous intake, while 1,718 students are from Peninsular Malaysia and 72 international students from China, Brunei, Gabon, Germany, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

"We are thrilled to welcome our new batch of students, and congratulations on your achievement to begin this journey with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) which promises to be an enriching, challenging, enjoyable and rewarding learning experience," he said.

Furthermore, he urged UMS students to seize every opportunity to work hard in their field of study and not take the opportunity to study at UMS for granted.

"You must always value this opportunity to be selected to further your studies at UMS, as there are many more who longed to experience university life in this campus," he said.

Two new degree programmes are introduced at UMS which include Bachelor's Degree in Oil and Gas Engineering (Faculty of Engineering) and Bachelor's Degree of Early Childhood Education (Faculty of Education and Psychology).

Additionally, the university now offers a new Master's Degree Programme in Public Health and Diploma Programme in Oil and Gas Engineering.