

Bigger intake of over 4,000 students at UMS

By Chok Sim Yee

KOTA KINABALU: Sixty-eight per cent of the more than 4,000 students who enrolled in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here yesterday are females.

According to UMS vice chancellor Brig Jen Prof Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Hj Ampon, there are 97 foreign students this year from China, Brunei, Indonesia, Turkey and Greece.

He said 42 per cent of the new Malaysian intake are Sabahans and 15 per cent Sarawakians, while the rest are from Peninsular Malaysia.

Kamaruzaman said about 80 per cent of the students

who applied for admission to UMS this year were granted, adding that unsuccessful applicants were put on the waiting list.

He said the enrolments this year are higher compared to around 3,900 last year.

Among the new students is Hazalie Hamsir, 20, who travelled for 10 hours from Tawau to the university for registration at the Chancellor Hall yesterday.

Asked why he chose to further his education in UMS, he said it is one of the best universities in the country and his friends have told him about the well established administration system here.

"My first impression is

that it is very attractive and the registration system is more open."

Hazalie, who is taking financial economics, said his first choice was sports science as he is an ex-student and athlete at Bandur Penawar Sports School in Tawau.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Hasif Zahari, 20, said he was homesick since he came here from Kelantan.

He revealed that his ambition is actually to be an architect but he was offered a course in financial economics in UMS.

"I prefer the universities in Peninsular Malaysia, but I was given a place here, so I just accepted it."

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Malacca girl excited about studying at UMS and hopes to climb Mt Kinabalu

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He said his parents were disappointed at first but are supportive of his decision to come to Sabah nonetheless.

Elaine Lee, 20, is also one of the many students who travelled all the way from Peninsular Malaysia to the Land Below the Wind to pursue her tertiary education.

Despite not being given her first choice course, which is medicine, the Malacca girl is still excited about studying here with



Elaine

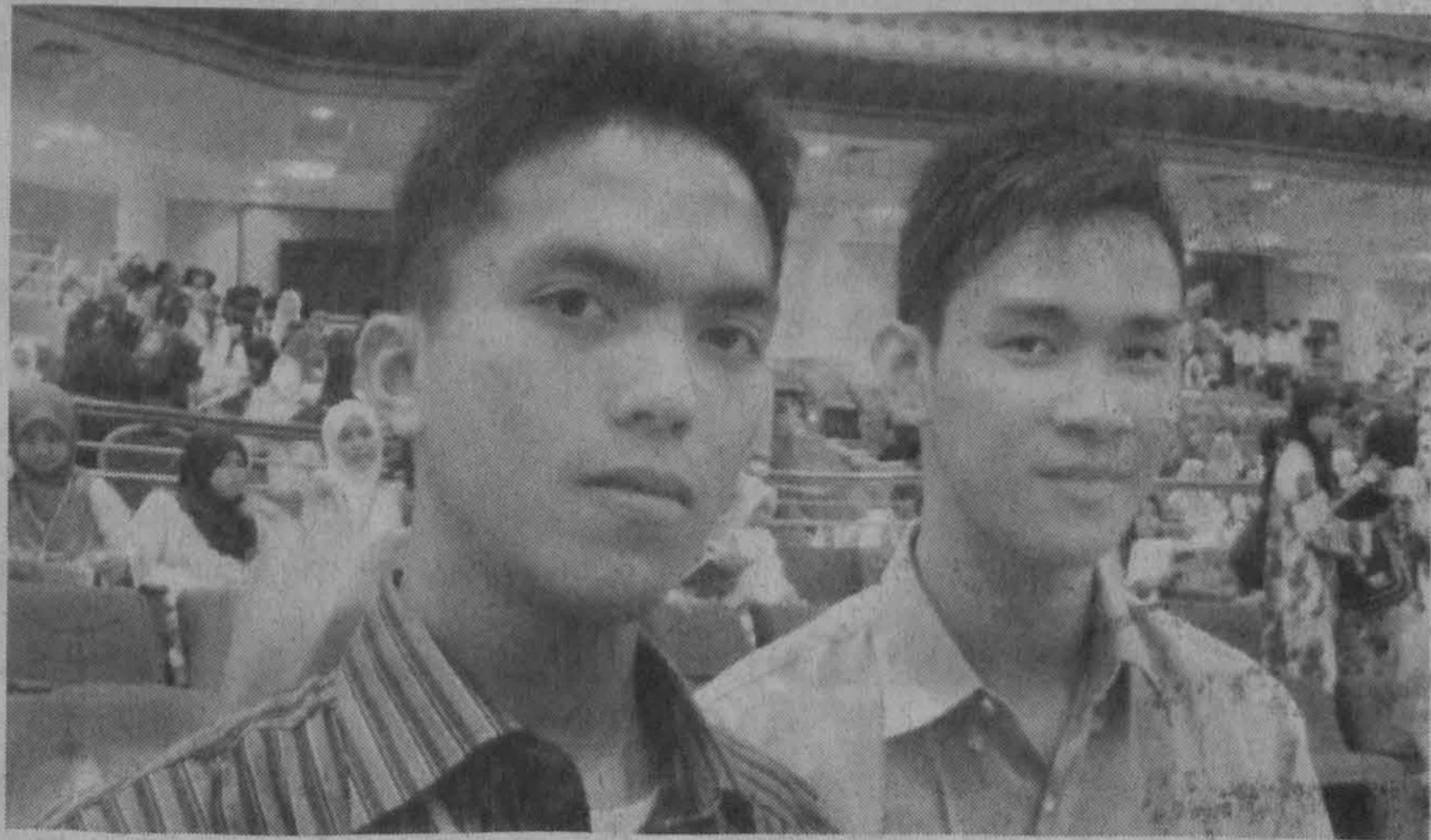
her secondary school friends and is already

looking forward to conquer Mount Kinabalu.

"UMS was my first choice because I heard it is quite a new campus with a nice environment," she said, adding that there are too many traffic lights here.

The students will undergo the orientation week from July 3 to July 9.

Also present at the hall yesterday are deputy vice chancellor (academic and international) Prof Dr Amran Ahmed and deputy vice chancellor (research and innovation) Prof Dr Rosnah Ismail.



Muhd Hasif with his new friend Alid Herman from Sandakan.