SANDAKAN: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) needs to ensure only qualified students who are genuinely interested are enrolled in its School of Sustainable Agriculture (SSA) here, said Higher Education Ministry secretary general Datuk Ab. Rahim Md. Noor.

He said it would be pointless to accept students with no interest in any of the courses offered by SSA. “We do not want it to be a dumping ground for students who come here only after their applications for other courses were rejected,” he said at a signing ceremony yesterday to mark the handover of the UMS School of Sustainable Agriculture and Sandakan Polytechnic at the Multipurpose Hall in Jalan Sungai Batang, Mile 10 yesterday.

The RM230 million School of Sustainable Agriculture project which began in October 2008 was completed in August this year while the RM126.7 million Sandakan Polytechnic project was completed last month.

UMS was represented at the handover ceremony by vice chancellor Prof Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Kamarulzaman Haji Ampon and the dean of the School of Sustainable Agriculture, Prof Madya Dr Mahmud Sudin while the Sandakan Polytechnic was represented by its director Mohd Hatta Zainal and the Public Works Department by the deputy director of management sector Dato’ Ir. Annies Md Ariff.