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KOTA KINABALU: Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Arman describes the action of those stepping on pictures of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as offensive and uncalled for.

Musa who is also the pro-chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) was commenting on the issue during a press conference after delivering his speech to new students of the university.

"We should respect our elders and respect our leaders. We will definitely be angry if people step on the pictures of our parents; it's the same situation here. We should thank the government, and our Prime Minister Najib for his efforts in developing and improving the country. He has done a lot for the country," he said.

Commenting on the gender ratio imbalance of the new students in UMS, Musa said that it was a normal phenomenon that happened around the world.

He added that female students by nature are more hardworking and focused on achieving their goals, while male students are always distracted by other activities.

The female to male ratio in UMS among new students is 7:3.

Meanwhile, in his speech, Musa told the new intake of students for 2012/2013 not to be influenced by matters or issues that are not relevant to their studies or role as university students.

He said they should focus fully on their studies and use their experience in university to become open-minded and matured members of society.

"I hope the knowledge and experience you gain will help to build character and moral values that form you into good human capital capable of leading the country in the future," he added.

The pro-chancellor also reminded that as university students they should no longer depend entirely on lecturers for notes.

"What you learn in the lecture halls will not be enough to achieve excellence. Other than discussions and group studies with other students, do plenty of reading to widen your knowledge and skills," he said.

Also present at the event were UMS vice chancellor Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdul-lah, UMS Board of Directors' chairman Tan Sri Hamid Egho, members of the board of directors, UMS senior officials and deans.