

I will keep on contributing to country if health permits – Lee

By Jenne Lajjun BP 22/10/2012 A8

KOTA KINABALU: Social activist Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye will continue to contribute to the people and to Malaysia while his health still permits him to.

“I have given almost 40 years of my time. I am now no longer young. I am 66 years old now, but I believe that what is important is our health because with good health, I can do more. That is why I am conscious of my health. I am careful about the things I eat and how to manage stress,” the former politician reporters after receiving the Honorary Doctor Of Philosophy (Social Works) from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on Saturday.

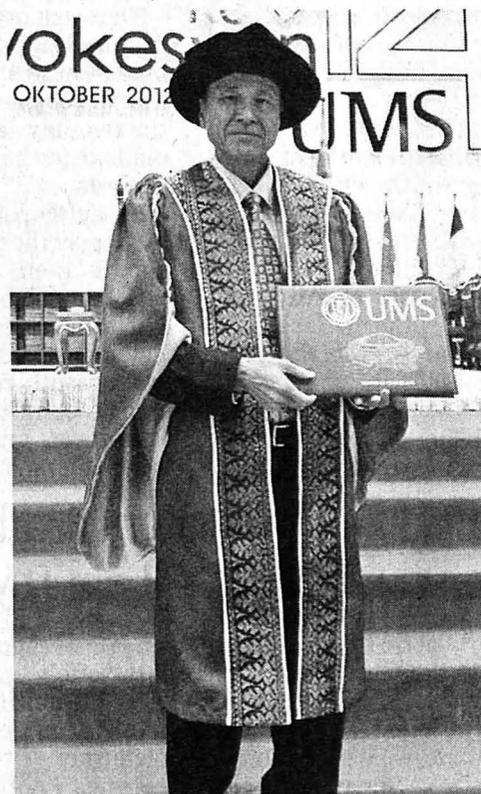
He added that the presentation of the Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (Social Works) to him was an honour and he viewed it as a recognition to his service to the community and the country all this while.

“If I calculate, I have been in service to the country for 40 years. Twenty years as the people’s representative and the balance as a social activist. I think of this award as an inspiration to me and I feel it will encourage me to strengthen to become more active. As long as my health allows me, I will continue to work for the country and the society,” he said.

During the interview, Lee called on the government to view all non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as their partners in helping the country to progress and prosper.

“I think it is important that NGOs should be given all the support so that they can play their respective role to help the government in the development of the country,” he said.

He added that he had been involved



Lee posing with his Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (Social Works).

with many NGOs since retiring from politics and that presently, he was also serving for government advisory committees.

“I regard this as my contribution to the country ... I would like to continue to contribute towards the country in various ways,” he said.

One of the areas that he is most keen of presently is in the area of safety and health of the people.

“My area is mainly concerning the safety of the people from crime, at workplace and on the roads. There are so many people dying from the road.

Every year 6,000 to 7,000 people die on the roads and I feel strongly about this. Every time someone dies, I feel it is a loss for the country. They are assets for the country.

“And this is the reason I spend so much time working with the government to promote occupational safety and health because it is basically to me an issue of safety and health but also a human rights issue. We would like to see that this be regarded as the rights of employees in the country that no matter where they are, they must be given a safe work environment. This is where the employers must come in,” said Lee.

At the same time, Lee also called on the UMS graduates at the convocation on Saturday to contribute to the society and country by adopting the spirit of voluntarism.

“Be involved in voluntary work, help the community and the country, help the poor. Don’t forget to do voluntary work and help those less fortunate,” he said.

Lee was a former leader of the Democratic Action Party (DAP). He was the elected State Legislative Assemblyman for Bukit Nenas, Selangor from 1969 to 1974 and served as Member of Parliament for Kuala Lumpur Bandar/Bukit Bintang from 1974 to 1990, until he left DAP and retired from politics in 1990.

Since then he has been a social activist and continued to serve the country. He is presently chairman of the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) as well as the chairman of the National Service Training Council.

He is also vice-chairman of the Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation and member of the KL City Hall Advisory Board.