

Adapt to new school environment, teachers told

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KOTA KINABALU: Newly appointed teachers have to learn to adapt to the environment of the school where they are posted, without any delay.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Social Science graduate Khalil Sabu who is from Sandakan and was part of the 183 candidates selected to undergo the pilot project, '2012 Special Assessment Programmes for Outstanding Education Undergraduate', organised by the Education Service Commission yesterday, said it was crucial for teachers to adapt to their new environment, particularly if they were posted to rural areas where amenities like daily electricity and ample water supplies were short.

Khalil, who underwent his practical training as a teacher at SMK Medamit, Limbang, a rural school sited an hour away by gravel



Khalil flanked by Nadia (left) and Shafri.

road from Limbang, said it would also be beneficial for the new teachers to learn the indigenous language spoken by the local folk where they are posted.

"Where I taught, there were 700 students and 56 teachers. The facilities there were quite basic, and I was there for two months. There was no pipe water supply and water was gotten from a hill. During the dry season, the folk had to get water elsewhere," he said.

Aside from that, teachers

also have to learn to be self-sufficient, he said.

"The teaching materials available at the school were incomplete so we have to be creative in our teaching methods," he further added.

As a newbie in the teaching profession, Khalil also mentioned the importance of respecting his seniors.

"We have to be brave and socialise with them, but at the same time, as newbies we have to accord the respect they deserve as seniors. We

have to be willing to listen while sharing our own views," he said.

On the privilege of being selected to partake in the assessment yesterday, Khalil said he felt it was an opportunity that should not be allowed to go to waste.

"I am elated to be selected, but I also know that being selected carries with it a responsibility and further challenges ahead as a teacher," he said.

He added that he would probably begin his posting as a teacher next month.

Nadia Mohd Yunus from the Gaya Campus teaching institute said the assessment was a platform for her and many others to start their teaching career without going through the same channel of job application.

"Other students from the institute feel motivated to do well because of the platform," she said.