

Master English, new students of UMS urged

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) latest intake were urged to master English while pursuing their tertiary education at the institute of higher learning.

Making the call, Chairman of UMS Board of Directors, Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Egoh, said English is an important language especially on the international stage because it is the most widely used.

However, he said, in the effort to master the language, they should not overlook the importance of Bahasa Melayu as the national language.

"So, in order to be proficient in the language, use English books whenever you have the opportunity apart from reading more books written in English," he said at the UMS new intake's "Pledge and I Promise" programme.

Chief Minister cum Pro-Chancellor Datuk Seri Musa Aman officiated.

Hamid said the students should grab the opportunity to improve their skills in English communication in UMS.

This is because the tertiary programmes there have been structured to take into consideration the need for the students to master the language, he said.

Malaysia, he said, is always among the participants in international conferences where the main language used is English.

He said countries that receive attention from these conferences were countries whose delegations are well versed in the language.

"If you become a Malaysian representative in the future and have a good command of the English language, you would have an edge to handle national



Hamid

affairs.

"It would also give an advantage to Malaysia as among pioneers in competitive fields such as in the formation of global policies and the world's economic restructuring," he said.

On another matter, he encouraged the students to broaden their horizon by socialising with students from other backgrounds.

He said studying in the UMS provides them with such opportunity because of the various races and ethnic groups in the campus unlike in other states.

In Sabah, he said, the people live with one another in harmony devoid of class strata. He said this experience would be useful when they

enter into actual employment. On this, Hamid said they ought to understand fully the contents in the "Etiquette" guidebook prepared by UMS.

The guidebook, he said, provides them with instruction on punctuality, moral values, patriotism and appreciation for one another, among others.

To this end, he said they must strive to complete their choice of major and to dedicate their focus on it.

This is so that when they graduate, they could even "create" their own employment, he said.

"With your ability to create employment for yourself, you do not have to depend on employment from other establishments," he said.

He said they should make every effort to achieve success, adding that success is attained irrespective of a person's background. Most successful people, he said, came from families that are not well to do.

Also present were Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Seri Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon and Director General of Higher Learning Department, Prof Datuk Dr Rujhan Mustafa.