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UMS-Thoughts

"DR MAHATHIR'S THOUGHTS" TO BE COURSE PROGRAMME AT SABAH U

KOTA KINABALU, June 27 (Bernama) -- Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will introduce "Dr Mahathir's Thoughts" as a course programme, its Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Prof Dr Abu Hassan Othman said today.

"Dr Mahathir is a leader with very vast experience and a world statesman/ Hence his leadership traits should be studied," he said.

Dr Abu was speaking to reporters after attending the "Professor's Lecture on Cell Molecule, Biology and Biodiversity" by Prof Dr Ho Coy Choke of the UMS Faculty of Science and Technology at Likas Bay here.

Dr Abu said the UMS would introduce "Dr Mahathir's Thoughts" through the Language and Knowledge Medium Centre once the University Senate gave its approval.

"The books written by the Right Honourable Prime Minister will also become university texts," he said.

On the suggestion by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Khamsiyah Yeop that students go for double majors, Dr Abu Hassan said the UMS was already implementing a similar programme.

Students were asked to major in one field and take up another field that would strengthen the original course programme.

"For instance, engineering students will study business and science students will take up marketing and this we are implementing at the USM and we wish to expand it," he said.

On the Sabah university academic staff, Dr Abu Hassan hoped 80 per cent of them would have the PhD by 2010.

"We are taking in qualified local (Sabah) lecturers but we are not compromising on quality as the UMS is not an agent providing employment."

On the use of English, the UMS was abiding by the government directive that English be used in the teaching of science and engineering subjects.

"At present about 50 per cent of the UMS course programmes are conducted in English and we will expand this," he said.

On the Sabah university's cooperation with universities in China, Dr Abu Hassan said efforts were being made to have exchange programmes involving lecturers and students in the areas of science, engineering and herbal medicine (alternative medicine).

"I have visited several universities in Beijing and Shanghai and identified those for the exchange programme and cooperation," he said.

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