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Varsities must have good ties with private sector: TYT

Tun Salahuddin and Taib follow from the back on arrival to officiate the Unimas 6th Convocation yesterday. - Nadim Bokhari



By Jacob Achoi

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Head of State, Tun Datuk Patinggi Abang Muhammad Salahuddin yesterday urged for greater ties between institutions of higher learning and the private sector.

He said good rapport between the two parties is important to ensure the courses provided by the institutions matched the jobs that were in demand in the employment market.

"The close relationship is also important in view of the large number of graduates nowadays are keen to go for job opportunities in the private sector," he added.

He was speaking at the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) Sixth

Convocation at its campus here yesterday.

According to Salahuddin, based on the current trend not less than 90 per cent of university graduates would seek employment in the private sector.

Hence, it is important for the respective institutions of higher learning to build a stronger tie with the private sector, he added.

"By enhancing such relationship, universities will be able to understand the needs of the industries, and in the process help to develop its research works in tandem with the requirement of the industrial sector," he pointed out.

The Head of State also urged institutions of higher learning like UNIMAS

to consistently update their curriculum to make it more relevant as well as to accommodate the current needs.

This, he stressed, was critical in view of the economic uncertainty and the increasing number of jobless graduates.

He reasoned that acquiring knowledge should be made a life-long process, as the knowledge acquired now would be outdated in due time because of the rapidly changing technology.

He advised the graduates that the knowledge they acquired from the university was only the beginning and more still need to be learnt when they enter the employment market.

Present were Chief Minister, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and other cabinet ministers.