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Tajuk : Unimas grad to release health app

## PRIME NEWS

# Unimas grad to release health app

## AWARD WINNING:

It enables health authorities to issue advance warning of outbreaks

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**A** FEW months ago Dr Dhesi Baha Raja and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) made headlines for his mobile disease-prediction invention, which has received global recognition.

The Artificial Intelligence in Medical Epidemiology (AIME) mobile application (app) developed by the Sabah-born doctor was also used during this year's Olympics Games in Rio de Janeiro and San Paolo, Brazil, in the wake of the Zika virus in the country.

The app enables health authorities to issue warning of outbreaks three months before it occurs with the capability to detect the disease within a 400m radius.

The 32-year-old father of one is set to embark on a greater chapter after completing his three-year doctorate studies in Public Health at Unimas and with the release of the application on the market next month.

"Looking at patients in the wards, it kept me thinking and I was eager to find a way to save them before the outbreak, or how to prevent and stop an outbreak," he said.

"I am grateful for the encouragement given by Unimas to develop this application as well as the accolades I received for the invention.

"The university has been supportive and did not restrain me from pursuing my dream even when I received a two-month scholarship to pursue graduate studies at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) Research Park in Silicon Valley, United States," said Dr Dhesi, who is also the Malaysian Integrated Medical Association (Mimpa) president.

Dr Dhesi is working with mobile digital service provider, Webe, and the Health Ministry.

The app won the Pistoia Alliance Life Science Award and Singularity

University's Global Impact Competition in Silicon Valley last year.

He is among 67 doctoral graduates who will receive their scrolls during Unimas' 20th convocation ceremony here.

A total of 4,276 graduates will be at the convocation, which begins today.

At the ceremony, former Sarawak deputy chief minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang will be conferred with an honorary PhD (Transformation of Rural Community) for his contribution towards rural development and transformation in the state.

Unimas Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi said Jabu remained passionate and committed in his efforts to elevate the livelihood of rural folks despite having retired from the Sarawak's political scene.

Unimas, said Kadim, which would be celebrating its silver jubilee next year, aimed to place greater emphasis on the culture of giving back to the university. Hence, the launch of an endowment fund.

"In western countries, the alumni is committed to helping their university even after decades of graduating," said Kadim, adding



**Dr Dhesi Baha Raja's mobile application won the Pistoia Alliance Life Science Award and Singularity University's Global Impact Competition in Silicon Valley last year. Pic courtesy of Dr Dhesi Baha Raja**

that the university had produced 32,454 graduates since its establishment in 1992.

On the future of the university, Kadim said Unimas remained committed to making breakthroughs in research and innovation, which could create an impact on the com-

munity, such as building mini hydro dams in remote areas and how to supply treated water to the rural community.

"Dr Dhesi has made us proud. "I expect we can create more such achievements," Kadim said.