

# Don't be too choosy about jobs : Tun Zaidi

By Letitia Samuel

KUCHING – University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) graduates should not be too choosy about jobs but must be brave enough to venture into areas that held bright prospects for the future, Head of State Tun Datuk Patinggi Ahmad Zaidi Adruce bin Muhammad Noor said yesterday.

Tun Zaidi, who is Unimas Chancellor, pointed out that there was a demand for skilled manpower in the developing sector such as the Sama Jaya Free Industrial Zone (SJFIZ) which had managed to attract multi-national and hi tech companies to set up their plants there.

"Beside investment chances, the setting up of these plants here also provides more job openings, particularly for local graduates in various high tech fields like electronics, information technology and manufacturing," he said.

Tun Zaidi expressed confidence that Unimas graduates would play an active role in the State's and country's development, saying by joining other economic sectors, they could help industries such as gas and petroleum, construction, agriculture, timber and tourism to flourish.

"On the national level, the setting up of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) will require 25,000 knowledgeable workers in the next five years," he noted.

Tun Zaidi was speaking at the convocation of the second batch of Unimas graduates yesterday morning.

The ceremony was witnessed by Unimas Pro-Chancellor Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Datuk Amar Alfred Jabu, chairman of Unimas Board of Directors, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Bujang Mohamad Nor, Vice Chancellor, Professor Dato Zawa-

wi Ismail and academicians.

The Convocation saw the graduation of 384 students and out of these, 345 were conferred Baccalaureate degrees while another 39 received postgraduate degrees.

An electronic and telecommunication engineering student, Chin Yoon Tze was conferred the Chancellor Award while both Mazilah alias Hasnah Mukhtar and Bong Vui Poh received the Royal Education Award.

Tun Zaidi also acknowledged the importance of parental support for the graduates throughout their academic years. He hoped parents and family members would continue to encourage the students to achieve their academic goals.

"The number of student dropouts at both primary and secondary levels should be reduced while their academic achievements enhanced so that more students would study up to tertiary level," he stressed.

Tun Zaidi congratulated the academic staff on producing the second batch of graduates since the university's inception five years ago.

He was confident that Unimas would be receptive to change, far-sighted and worthy of emulation by other institutions of higher learning.

Tun Zaidi also called on the State and federal governments to continue providing funds for the university to implement its plans. He also expressed his gratitude for the assistance given by both the State and federal governments.

"Being a new university, we need this support to achieve our academic and physical planning, particularly in building our permanent campus," Tun Zaidi said, adding that Unimas had already created a niche as a university despite its short existence.



**SUCCESS' ...** Unimas Chancellor Tun Datuk Patinggi Ahmad Zaidi Adruce presenting the Chancellor Award to engineering graduate Chin Yoon Tze at the university's second convocation yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFFERY BAKRI