

'Expand use of English, linkages with industry'

by Peter Sibon

KOTA SAMARAHAN – The Yang Di Pertua Negeri Tun Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Muhammad Salahuddin has called on Universiti Malaysia Sarawak to place greater emphasis on the wider usage of English and to expand its linkages with industries.

He made this call in his address at Unimas' Sixth Convocation held at its campus here yesterday.

According to Salahuddin, who is also Chancellor of Unimas, command of the English language was

vital for students, whether at undergraduate or postgraduate level, so that they would be able to broaden their outlook and break new frontiers of knowledge, especially in the era of "K-economy".

"The mastering of the English language and the acquiring of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) knowledge and skills are very important in this era of "K-economy" he said.

On the university's linkage with the industries, Salahuddin said: "It is important that Unimas places greater emphasis on updating its curriculum to ensure it is

relevant to the current needs of the market."

By having linkages with the local industries, Unimas would be able to interact meaningfully with the forces of the economy and function as a resourceful provider of knowledgeable and skilled manpower.

"It is necessary for Unimas to understand the needs of the local industries through the students' research as this will allow them to contribute to the development of the local industries. This will also provide the opportunities for the academics to undergo research and

consultancy for our local industries too."

Salahuddin also advised the graduates to continue with their pursuit of knowledge, stressing that it was a life-long commitment.

A total of 1, 076 graduates are receiving their scrolls at the two-day convocation. Among them are a PhD student, 102 Masters and 973 undergraduates. Three prominent figures Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye (Doctorate of Letters), Tan Sri Datu Dr Haji Taha Arif (Doctor of Science) and Tan Sri Razali Ismail (Doctor of Law) were conferred honorary doctorates.