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has included the youth agenda in the present.

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KOTA KINABALU: The University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF) Vice Chancellor Dr Rafiq Idris welcomed and thanked the Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor and the State Government for their continuous support.

"This will enable the university to strengthen its research capacity and play an important role by undertaking strategic research on development which is beneficial for Sabah," he said.

At the recent UCSF's 2nd Convocation here, Hajiji who is also the UCSF Chancellor said the State Government supports the development of its one and only university college while calling for its expansion to the East Coast by stages through the establishment of a mini campus.

Hajiji also announced a RM5 million allocation for UCSF as requested and another RM5 million for the establishment of the academic chair for the Sabah development study.

The convocation saw 459 students, out of the total 566 students who completed their studies, receiving their graduation scrolls.

Of the 566 graduates, 247 completed their bachelor's degree programmes, 316 diploma studies and three completed their foundation certificate programmes.

In his speech, Dr Rafiq congratulated all the graduates and their parents, while sharing the history of the UCSF establishment which was in operation for more than eight years.

"Looking back at the history of the founding of this college university, we can see that it was inspired or kindled by the Father of Sabah's Independence, Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun, as early as the 1960s.

"At the time, the late Tun Datu Mustapha declared his desire to build a university college in Sabah through a foundation that would be established, the Sabah Foundation. After 40 years of the Sabah Foundation establishment, UCSF was established and registered in 2014," he said.

The VC also conveyed his wish that UCSF graduates will continue to contribute to the university, society, country, and humanity in general.

"As UCSF graduates, you can play a variety of roles in the national development process," said Dr Rafiq.

He also expressed his wish and hopes for the university, besides proposing for its gradual expansion to the East Coast based on demand.

In addition, he requested special allocation for a research grant, consultancy project, pilot project for botanic batik production and other operational needs. Moreover, he explained that UCSF has yet to have an academic chair.

To build a research culture and stimulate research on Sabah development, he proposed to establish academic chair for the Sabah development study.

UCSF Pro-Chancellor Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar Khan Bahadar was also present.