

# First orang asli student at UMP



**One for the album:** Maslinda (in yellow baju kurung) and some of UMP's facilitators at an orientation programme for new students.

**KUANTAN:** Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) July intake saw 2,030 new students registered at its Gambang campus on July 1.

The number included 390 students taking diploma programmes and 1,640 who registered for degree courses.

Among them is UMP's first orang asli student Maslinda Samad who is of the Semai tribe. She hails from Pos Telanok, Cameron Highlands and will pursue a degree in project management.

According to a statement released

here recently, Maslinda was quoted as saying that she was proud to be the first orang asli to set foot into UMP.

"I am so happy to be able to continue my studies here.

"I just cannot wait for classes to start and meet new friends," she said.

Maslinda, who is the second of seven siblings, hopes that she would be able to inspire her brothers and sisters as well the rest of her community to strive for a better education.

Meanwhile, UMP vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim said the number of new stu-

dents this year had increased compared to 1,300 last year.

"It shows that UMP has become a popular choice for students who want to pursue their studies at tertiary level," he added.

He also said UMP was now offering 17 programmes at degree level and five at diploma level.

The programmes included five new degree courses in manufacturing engineering, industrial chemistry, project management, industrial technology management and safety and occupational health.