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## UniMAP RETAINS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP OF SUKUM

Tanjung Malim, 30 July – The Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) athletics team excelled during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Malaysian University Staff Sports Championship (SUKUM) becoming overall champions in athletics by scoring 15 gold medals out of 44 that were being contested.

This victory allowed UniMAP to retain its title as top athletes of Malaysian universities for 10 consecutive years since 2008.

UniMAP Contingent Leader Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd. Fo'ad Sakdan said that the UniMAP athletics team's success will provide the impetus for other teams to excel in other events most of which will begin tomorrow.

"Alhamdulillah, the UniMAP athletics team continues to succeed this year and I hope that this accomplishment will act as a starting point for more UniMAP athletes to continue this excellent achievement.

"With the open medal collection system implemented by the host Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) this year, UniMAP had been optimistic in accomplishing its mission to become overall SUKUM champion this year for the 10<sup>th</sup> time," he said today.

The UniMAP athletics team also won six silver and four bronze medals overtaking their closest competitor Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) who at second place won seven gold, eight silver and six bronze medals.

Universiti Malaya (UM) took the third place with five gold, four silver and three bronze medals.

Mohd. Fo'ad said that as predicted, UniMAP triumphed in the 100- and 200-meter event upon scoring four gold medals in the men and women's senior categories thanks to Mohd. Helmi Awang and Nurhaslinda Md. Hussin respectively while Dr. Shuhaida Yahud won gold for the women's veteran 100-meter event.

Mohd. Helmi said that he also helped the men's senior 4x100 meter and 4x400 meters quartet team by delivering two more gold medals for the UniMAP contingent which was headlined by three former national athletes Mohd. Robani Hassan, Muhammad Idris Zakaria dan Mohamad Baihaqi Razlan.

"Also contributing to the UniMAP contingent's gold wins were the women's senior 4x100-meter quartet, women's senior 800 and 1500 meters, men's and women's senior 400 meters, men's senior shot put, men's senior discus and men's senior long jump," he said.

More than 2,500 participants from 20 public universities (UA) nationwide as well as the Ministry of Higher Education contingent took part in the 42<sup>nd</sup> SUKUM Tournament.