



Swimmers **Ian Leondy Bell** from **USM** and **UPM's Chui Lai Kwan** took the men's and women's Athlete of the Games awards respectively. Pic by **Saifullizan Tamadi**

SPORTCHECK

UPM come out tops

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia's (UPM) domination of the swimming, karate and track and field events saw them emerge comfortable winners of the overall title at the inaugural Malaysian Institutions of Higher Learning Games (SUKIPT) yesterday.

UPM managed a total haul of 52 gold, 26 silver and 21 bronze to emerge champions. Second place went to Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) with 39 gold, 25 silver and 22 bronze while third went to Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) who managed 17 gold, one silver and five bronze.

UPM chef-de-mission Hamzah Ismail said he was delighted with the result which saw UPM come from behind to overtake early leaders UiTM and clinch the title.

UiTM had started Sukipt with 17 gold, three silver and 10 bronze thanks to their exploits in the seven major championships held annually by the Higher Education Ministry this year, which also contributed to their SUKIPT tally.

"I am really proud of our athletes. This win was only possible thanks to their tireless efforts in training and preparing for this event since earlier this year," said Hamzah, who is also the UPM sports division head.

"UiTM had led us by 15 gold medals going into the Games but we stayed calm and managed to overtake them thanks to our athletes who delivered in swimming, karate and track and field."

UPM's track and field athletes managed 14 gold, 12 silver and three bronze while their karate exponents took nine gold. Swimming was the biggest contributor with 15 gold, four silver and one bronze coming from the pool.

As expected, swimmers Ian Leondy Bell from Universiti Sains Malaysia and UPM's Chui Lai Kwan took the men's and women's Athlete of the Games awards respectively.

Lai Kwan won 13 gold and two silver medals while Ian managed seven gold, one silver and one bronze. **By Fadhlil Ishak**