

Buildings to house UMS' medical school completed

BP 6/7/2011 A9

KOTA KINABALU: An allocation of RM7 million has been approved by the Higher Education Ministry to purchase equipment for the newly established Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) School of Medicine.

The ministry's secretary general, Datuk Ab Rahim Md Noor, in announcing this yesterday, said RM6 million would be channelled towards purchasing research equipment while the remaining RM1 million would be used to purchase furniture sets.

Speaking during the official handing over of the School of Medicine, the main lecture hall and the post graduate building from the Public Works Department to UMS here yesterday, Ab Rahim said some RM420.6 million was allocated for the three projects.



Rahim (right) accompanied by UMS vice chancellor Datuk Seri Panglima Prof Dr Kamaruzzaman Ampon (fourth left), Higher Learning Ministry officers and Public Works Department officers visiting one of the laboratories at the new building yesterday.

"It is hoped that these buildings will be fully utilised by the undergraduates," he said.

UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzzaman Ampon said the government had spent some RM3 billion towards the university's physical development since the university was established 15 years ago.

"But our performance will not materialise without the commitment from all parties, including the federal and state governments as well as other agencies, such as the Finance Ministry, the Economic Planning Unit

and the PWD," he said.

Touching on the School of Medicine, Kamaruzzaman said, the first students' intake was in 2003 and saw 30 first batch graduates five years later. The number rose to 37 graduates in 2009 and last year with 67 graduates.

"With the School of Medicine fully completed, we will be able to take in more students to read medicine," he said.

Meanwhile, federal PWD state director Ir Mamman K T George attributed the success of constructing the building to the commitment of officers and personnel from the Higher Education Ministry, UMS and the contractors.