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UMS squatters agree to move for RM5,000 payouts

By YATIM TAUBATAL ANDAM

KOTA KINABALU, Wed - Plans to set up the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) permanent campus at Likas Bay are in progress, including removing 107 squatter families from the area.

UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Abu Hassan Othman said the university's master plan. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and soil survey had been completed to facilitate commencement of the project.

According to him, the squatters had agreed to vacate the site upon compensation of RM5,000 per family by the university, after being confirmed as locals by the Kota Kinabalu Municipal Council.

He said this after briefing Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee who visited the temporary campus at Menggatal, this afternoon.

Abu Hassan said construction of the permanent campus is expected to start next month and the first phase was scheduled for completion in 1998.

Earlier, he told the Chief Minister that only 131 of the total 1,422 students were accorded scholarships by the State Government and State foundations.

Of the number, 45 students were given scholarships by the State Establishment Department, followed by the State Government (38), Sabah Foundation (10), Sarawak Foundation (4), Johor Foundation (1), Perak Foundation (1), Kedah Foundation (2), Federal Land Development Authority (1) and Petronas (15).

UMS had carried out various research programmes, including psychology, business and economics as well as a marine project involving RM1 million, with a contribution of RM52,232 from the Darwin Institute in London.

In addition, UMS had forged close cooperations in various fields of studies with several institutes of high learning at home and abroad under the Rangkaian Bijak (Wise Network) concept involving health and economy, he said.

These included the University of Malaya, Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health and Innosabah.



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