

No compromise on quality, assures UMS

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By ALEX ONG

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is on course to become one of the leading universities in the region.

"Our academic and infrastructure developments are on schedule and everything is going on smoothly," said its Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Abu Hassan Othman.

He also allayed fears among some students about the ability of the university's teaching staff.

"I wish to state here that UMS will not compromise on quality and equipment. We are also getting lecturers from other local universities apart from opting for distant learning," he said after witnessing 700 freshies who took their pledge Monday.

Dr Abu Hassan said UMS would be fostering cooperation with various universities including the Imperial College in London and the University of Birmingham.

On the phase one of the university's permanent campus in Likas, costing RM546 million, he said it is expected to be

ready by end of next year.

"Site works are expected to be ready in two months and all UMS students will move into the new campus by the end of 1999.

"It is a very modern and intelligent campus which can accommodate 3,000 students," he added.

UMS now has eight faculties and another three new ones will be set up for the 1997/98 academic session.

The three are the School of Psychology and Social Work, School of Food Science and Dietary and School of Tropical Forest with an intake of 115 students.

"The Education Ministry approved the setting up of the three faculties in line with the country's manpower needs," said Prof Abu Hassan.

"UMS will also set up a medicine faculty but I am unable to give the details now," he said.

UMS at present has 1,425 students.

Of the 700 new students, 35 per cent are from Sabah while the rest from Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak.



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