

## New university in Sabah to begin next year

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The new university to be set up in Sabah will take in its first batch of students next year and not in June as reported earlier, Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud.

This is to ensure that preparations for the setting up of the university are conducted properly.

Speaking after chairing the post-Cabinet meeting at his ministry today, he said it was possible for the university to use the academic staff of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia branch in Kota Baru to start its courses by July, but it would mean rushing to se-

lect the university's location and appoint academic staff.

Dr Sulaiman said the task force on the Sabah university, headed by ministry secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Noordin Hassan, met for the first time last Friday which was also attended by three representatives from the new Barisan Nasional State Government.

"The university's location was discussed but no definite decision was made.

"However, they are considering three possible locations which are Tawau, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu," he said, adding that they

were also studying candidates for the Vice-Chancellor and recruitment of teaching staff.

Dr Sulaiman also said that since Sabah was now governed by the Barisan Nasional, his ministry planned to encourage faster integration among students from Sabah, Sarawak and the peninsula.

"An effective way would be to bring qualified students from Sabah to study in boarding schools here and vice versa."

He added that although the practice of sending students from Sabah to the peninsula had been going on for

a long time, the number of students sent was very small during the Parti Bersatu Sabah rule.

He said he had directed the Director of Schools Division Abdul Talib Mohamed Zain to look into ways of increasing the number of students in such exchange programmes.

He also hoped that the Sabah Foundation would co-operate by providing funds.

On the proposed National Accreditation Board, Dr Sulaiman said he had directed the Schools and Teachers Registration Division to ensure that every application

for twinning programmes be accompanied by a written agreement from the university.

He said the directive would take effect immediately and any college which made false claims about their twinning programmes would be reported to the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry and action would be taken under the Trades Description Act.

On the appointment of the board members, he said, "The board will include academicians. We are still working on the set-up of the board and the possibility of including the private sector."