

Pioneer med students admitted to UMS

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) admitted 34 pioneer students for its medical degree course yesterday.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Abu Hassan Othman said the number of applications received by the university for the medical course was more than the places offered for this year.

"Overall, students admitted this academic session have the cumulative grade point average of between 3.8 and 4.0," he told reporters at the university here yesterday.

He said UMS would discuss with several hospitals in Sabah including the Queen Elizabeth Hospital here for their assistance in providing clinical training for its undergraduates.

Dr Abu Hassan said the UMS would also appoint external and internal advisers to ensure that its medical school achieve the highest possible international standard.

UMS Medical School Dean is Prof Dr Osman Ali who is formerly the head of Social Health

Department in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM) Medical Faculty.

Meanwhile, one of the 34 UMS pioneer medical students, Mohd Firdaus Mohd Hayati, 20, said he chose the course as he wanted to change the perception that a religious school student was only fit to become either a religious officer or teacher.

Mohd Firdaus, from Pendang in Kedah, is a former student at Sekolah Agama Maahad Muhammadiyah in Kelantan and he obtained first grade in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination with two A1s and five A2s.

He completed a matriculation course at the Institut Teknologi Tun Abdul Razak in Langkawi and obtained 3.9 cumulative grade point average which paved the way for his admission to the UMS.

The two-day registration for new students which began Sunday will see the UMS admitting 3,965 freshies for the 2003/2004 academic session.



WELCOME ON BOARD... Dr Abu Hassan with a batch of pioneer medical students at UMS yesterday. - NSTpic by Yatim T Andam