

# UMS requesting for a campus in East Coast

**By Durie Rainer Fong**

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah might see a twin campus built in the East Coast of the State under the Ninth Malaysian Plan (9MP), Vice-Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr Mohamad Noh Dalimin said.

A proposal had been submitted to the Government requesting over RM2 billion to build the campus.

"We have suggested some potential locations in the East Coast (but) anywhere...Sandakan, Lahad Datu or Tawau is fine.

"I guess it will be very nice if we

can set it up in the 9MP. We have requested more than RM2 billion but I think that is too much," he said, adding it was more likely they would attain around RM1.4 billion.

He was speaking after visiting the Joint Celebration of Sinaran Institute and Sabah Tshung Tsin Secondary School Open Day-cum-Education Fair at the Tshung Tsin Secondary School, here, Sunday.

Among those present were KK Hakka Association Chairman-cum-Chairman of the Board of Governors of Sinaran Institute and Tshung Tsin

Secondary School, Jimmy Yong Kyok Ming and Sinaran Institute CEO Chia Su Fui.

However, Dr Mohd Noh pointed out the RM1.4 billion funding, provided that the Government agrees to the proposal, would mostly be used for the construction of a 600-bed teaching hospital in the existing UMS campus here.

The funding would also be used to assume work on construction of buildings in the city campus which have not been completed under 8MP.

On other developments, he said more meetings and discussions with

Chinese schools would be undertaken by UMS to delve into why there are few Sabahan Chinese students in the university.

"I think more effort has to be put in on my part to rectify the problem (such as) seeing them, discussing and understanding what are the problems faced by the schools," he said.

Presently, UMS has 12,102 students, almost 40 per cent made up of Sabahans but only a small percentage of whom are Sabah Chinese, Dr Mohd Noh said.

"I think it is also because the

Chinese population in the State is small compared to other states in the peninsula such as Perak," he said.

He was pleased that Chinese associations often paid him a visit like the Hakka Association.

Earlier, Jimmy said Sinaran Institute has been approved by the Private Education Department to award academic qualifications at diploma level.

"If everything goes smooth, our diploma courses will start next January," he said, adding that it would be great news for parents and students.