

New UMS student hostels revived after years of delay

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By Mariah Doksil

KOTA KINABALU: Two long-abandoned hostel blocks at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will finally be completed and opened to students, following renewed negotiations between the university, the contractor and the Ministry of Higher Education.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir said the Block B1 & B2, Kolej Kediaman Pelajar UMS Numbak, completed structurally but left unused due to technical and legal disputes, are urgently needed as UMS faces acute shortages in student accommodation.

"UMS has over 18,000 students, but existing hostels can only accommodate about 7,000. We cannot allow completed buildings to sit idle while students struggle to find affordable housing," he said.

Zambry added the resolution was reached after multiple meetings with all parties involved.

"I told them, we must find a way forward. The issue cannot be left hanging simply because of

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some technical and legal matters. UMS needs these hostels, and students need a comfortable environment for learning," he said.

The two buildings are expected to provide accommodation for 3,078 students, significantly reducing the need for students to rent rooms outside campus at higher rates. The minister said the government's priority is ensuring access and comfort for Sabah students.

"Our commitment is to ensure that Sabah students receive the facilities they deserve. This is



Block B1 & B2, Kolej Kediaman Pelajar UMS Numbak.

part of our broader effort to elevate UMS' standing, not only in rankings but in the overall wellbeing of its students and lecturers," he added.

On Saturday, Zambry visited the Block B1 & B2 project site. He was accompanied by Datuk Seri Panglima Abd. Rahman Dahlan, Chairman of the UMS Board of Directors, and Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Hj. + Mansor, JP, Vice Chancellor of UMS, together with senior management representatives

from Titijaya Land Berhad, the developer of the Block B1 and B2.

In May 2025, Titijaya announced the proposed acquisition of two property assets in Kota Kinabalu for RM105 million, stepping in as the white knight of the abandoned development. The Group is committed to completing the remaining works and delivering safe, comfortable, and affordable accommodation for UMS students.