



(From left): Tanjung Kapor Assemblyman Datuk Teo Chee Kang in discussion with Datuk Saddi Abd Rahman (Sukau) Datuk Edward Khoo (Kepayan), Datuk Jainab Ahmad (Karambunai) and Datuk Edward Yong (Tanjung Aru).

Nasir: Govt focus always on first-class human resources

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Sherell Ann Jeffrey

KOTA KINABALU: The State Government has always stressed on the quality of professional development and first-class human resources for the development of the State.

Minister in the Chief Minister's Department Datuk Nasir Tun Sakaran said this in reply to a question from Elopura Assemblyman Au Kam Wah at the State Assembly here.

He said the Sandakan Education Hub which is located at Mile 10, Jalan Sungai Batang has the capacity to accommodate a total of 5,000 students.

"To meet the needs of a growing skilled labour, the establishment of institutions of higher education in the State is a proactive step taken by the State government to meet the above requirements," he said.

At this point, he said, the Sandakan Education Hub has a total of 497 students and these students are studying at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) branch and Sandakan Polytechnic.

He said the UMS Sandakan branch started operation on Sept 12, 2011 with focus on modern agriculture.

"Since its inception, the number of students has increased to a total of 371 compared to a total of 253 in 2011.

"In relation to this, three programmes have been offered at the School of

Sustainable Agriculture such as crop production, horticulture and landscaping and livestock production," he said.

For the Sandakan Polytechnic, he said, there are 126 students but that this is expected to increase when the new intake of students is conducted in December this year.

"In addition, focus would be put into skills training courses in agriculture and aquaculture at diploma level," he said.

On another note, he said the Junior Science College in Elopura with a capacity to accommodate 1,050 students has been completed and is awaiting the Occupancy Certificate.

He said the college is expected to start operation by 2013.

"In addition to that, some institutions have also expressed their plans of setting up their branch in the Sandakan Education Hub.

"At this point two institutions namely College Tunku Abdul Rahman (TAR) and Sabah Foundation College are awaiting decisions from the authorities to establish their branch in the Sandakan Education Hub.

"Apart from that, five other institutions namely Residential College, Aminudin Bakri College, Asian Tourism Institute, Kolej Pusat Teknologi and Sandakan Matriculation College are also in the midst of discussions on setting up their respective branches," he said.