



Mustafa (right) presenting the agreement to Yazid, while Hamid looks on.

RM170m UIP to be another KK iconic landmark

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KOTA KINABALU: The proposed UMS Link International Precinct (UIP) is expected to be a breakthrough for both Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and its wholly-owned investment arm UMS Link.

The project, which will be located on a five-acre commercial site in Alamesra along the Sulaman highway here, will also be another business milestone for Sabah.

UMS Link Holdings Sdn Bhd Group Chairman, Datuk K. Y. Mustafa, said it would not only benefit international students and expatriates but also contribute to the State's tourism industry.

He said this while witnessing the signing of a Purchase, Build, Lease and Transfer Agreement between the company and Goldenmas Development Sdn Bhd, Tuesday.

He revealed that the project would feature infrastructures with a modern façade consisting of a six-storey UIP office tower, a boutique hotel with 95 rooms and a swimming pool, an apartment tower with 160 units of three and two bedroom apartments, a 100-bed specialist medical centre as well as a mini theatre and commercial lots, among others.

"We are pleased to inform that the UIP plan is developed in line with the green technology specification and incurs a development cost of more than RM170 million," he said.

Mustafa said the project is expected to commence in April next year and completed within 36 months.

The significance of the project is that Goldenmas will purchase the land, build and develop the area and lease it back to UMS Link and other related operators.

"This means the university would be assisted financially in the sense that UMS does not rely fully on government funding for its operational costs and what not," he explained.

In this respect, he said the project and signing of agreement is the university's effort in strengthening existing core business activities in education and training, consultancy and commercialisation.

"It is also to develop and create a new income generating-based property project by venturing into excellent education infrastructures and services as a new business landmark to cater to international demand.

"With this project, UMS Link is confident of a better financial contribution to UMS.

"This will enable UMS to fulfil its aspiration to gradually reduce its dependency on government grants," he said.

Meanwhile, UMS Board of Directors Chairman Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Egoh said upon completion of the UIP, another iconic landmark would be added to the city's skyline.

Also present were Goldenmas Development Sdn Bhd Project Director, Mohamad Yazis Hanifah, Goldenmas Director, Willy Lee, and UMS Link Managing Director, Prof. Dr Roselina Ahmad Saufi, among others.