

Plans to build a UMS teaching hosp approved

DE 9.5.2013 3

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KOTA KINABALU: Plans to build a teaching hospital for Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) School of Medicine have been approved, according to UMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah (pic).

The 400-bed teaching hospital, the cost of which was not disclosed, would be built next to the School of Medicine.

Harun said it has been approved by the Cabinet and that a contractor is in the process of being appointed for its construction.

Harun, together with School of Medicine Dean Prof. Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin, were speaking to reporters after the opening of the Awareness of Disaster and Emergency Management Day at the School of Medicine's Main Auditorium, here, Wednesday.

Kamarudin said the hospital would function as a centre of education and research in the field of medicine.

"This will boost academic activities and the expansion of specialisation programmes



in Sabah," he said.

Kamarudin added that the hospital would open collaborations between the Health Department and UMS in developing the State's highly needed specialisation programmes.

Harun said that, currently, the university's medical students are placed in hospitals in Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu for training.

"God willing, when the teaching hospital is ready, we can place all our students at the hospital," said Harun.

There are currently about 500 medical students at the School of Medicine and another 350 who have already graduated, according to Kamarudin.

Meanwhile, Harun said the university is planning to form a Special Forces Emergency Medical Team, which will be based in the teaching hospital, to aid the State in times of disaster.

"The team will be made up of our staff but at the same time, we'll include students to expose them (to the working environment)," said Harun.