

# UMS to form emergency medical team

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will form a special emergency medical team in the eventuality of a disaster and emergency.

The university had in fact sent a medical team on a humanitarian mission to Lahad Datu during the Sulu armed terrorist intrusion.

UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the incident was an eye-opener for Sabah and therefore the university yesterday conducted a disaster management and emergency awareness workshop at its School of Medicine here.

"This workshop is a first step towards the establishment of the UMS special emergency medical team, whereby previously our medical team was sent to Lahad Datu on a humanitarian mission.

"It is the right time to hold this programme so that everyone in UMS can share expertise and knowledge to increase awareness and understanding of safety procedures when dealing with a disaster or emergency," said Dr Harun when delivering his speech at the launch of the workshop yesterday.

Dr Harun, who is also the Commander of UMS PALAPES (Reserve Officers Training Unit) said disaster management has become increasingly significant in assuring safety.

One of the objectives of the workshop is to increase awareness as well as to explore the possibilities of a disaster and emergency in the university.

UMS also aims to establish a network with government agencies such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Fire & Rescue Services Department, NGOs and civilians in order to efficiently manage disasters and emergencies.

Meanwhile at a press conference later, Dr Harun said that a teaching hospital will soon be built next to the UMS School of Medicine.

He hoped that the teaching hospital will benefit students who are currently doing their practical study in several hospitals in Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan.

"The project has been approved by the Cabinet; we are now waiting for the appointment of a contractor," he said.

Additionally, the Dean of the School of Medicine Professor Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin said that the teaching hospital has a capacity for 400 beds and is suitable for learning, teaching and research in the medical field.

"The teaching hospital will boost academic activities because we will have the opportunity to collaborate with the Ministry of Health to work on an expertise development programme which is very much needed in Sabah," he said.



Dr Harun (right) and Dr Kamarudin at the press conference