

40pc locals in Sabah varsity

KOTA KINABALU: Locals from Sabah make up 40 percent of those presently studying at Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

UMS vice-chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. Abu Hassan Othman gave this figure in his welcoming address at the ground-breaking ceremony of the university's permanent campus site at Likas Bay near here yesterday.

He said UMS would be able to cater for some 5,000 students by the year 2000.

"The first phase of the campus site is expected to be com-

pleted in 1998," said Abu Hassan, adding, "this means that we will be able to move into our permanent campus by then."

The university is presently occupying the Sabah Foundation's Community College, located in Likas Bay, on a temporary basis since its first academic session for this year commenced in July.

It has a total of 430 students who are taking up several courses at doctorate, Master and bachelor degree level as well as matriculation studies.

Abu Hassan said the UMS was venturing into a new era in the hope of becoming the catalyst of change for the country and society, particularly to the State.

Efforts are now underway to introduce a liberal and broad based concept of teaching to the students.

In this context, the UMS was planning to set up the Institute of Marine Borneo Research, the Institute of Tropical Biology and Conservation and Business Technology Park, he added.