

MEDICINE

Borneo mail 04/02/96

OFFER

Najib announces plans for UMS medical faculty

KOTA KINABALU: A medical faculty will be set up at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said yesterday.

He said UMS is one of the three local universities which will have such a faculty between this year and the end of the decade.

The other institutions are the International Islamic University and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, he said in Petaling Jaya.

Najib was quoted by *Bernama* as saying that the government had expanded its existing three medical colleges at Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

He said this was part of the groundwork to double the country's annual intake of medical students from 500 to 1,000 to meet future needs.

It is understood that the setting up of a medical faculty is part of the second phase in the development of UMS.

The university is waiting to

move into its permanent campus before working towards setting up the faculty.

Currently, UMS is using part of the Yayasan Sabah Community College buildings at Kuala Innanam as its temporary campus.

Yesterday, Najib said the government had also approved the

setting up of three private medical colleges, including the Asean Medical School to complement the supply of doctors.

He said there are now 9,504 registered doctors in the country with a ratio of a doctor to every 2,115 populace. Malaysia needs 35,500 doctors by the year 2020 if it wants to reduce the ratio to 1:961.