

# Construction of teaching hospital gets top priority from Higher Education Ministry

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Ministry of Higher Education is giving top priority for the construction of a teaching hospital at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here, said Higher Education Department head director Prof Datuk Dr Rujhan Mustafa.

He said the government has agreed to prioritise the construction of the hospital because all these while students at the UMS Medical Faculty have been utilising the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) as reference and research centre.

"The present facility is limited... to be a doctor who can serve the community well, a teaching hospital is very important to the medical faculty of a university," Dr Rujhan said.

"Therefore, early this year I have placed the hospital project as a top priority for UMS and the government has agreed to build a teaching hospital for UMS," he said during a press conference after the oath-swearing and "I Pledge" ceremony by the new intake of students at UMS here yesterday.

The event was attended by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman, UMS board of directors chairman Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Egoh

and UMS vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Haji Ampon.

Meanwhile, Musa wants the teaching hospital to be constructed as soon as possible to meet the needs of the UMS Medical Faculty students.

"The government has given the green light and we are now waiting for the construction to commence. The State government is thankful to the Federal government and the Ministry of Higher Education for looking into the needs of the students," he said.

And Dr Kamaruzaman also welcomed the impending construction of the teaching hospital and hope it would facilitate the training of medical students at UMS.

"The UMS School of Medicine is already up and running and now we face problem as there is no hospital to train our students because the QEH is currently under renovation," he said.

"Therefore, I hope with the construction of the UMS teaching hospital soon, our medical students will in the near future have a place to undergo training," Dr Kamaruzaman said. — **By MARRYAN RAZAN**, [marryan@newsabah-times.com.my](mailto:marryan@newsabah-times.com.my) NST 10/09/2011 2