

University Hosp at UMS campus

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Barnard Yaang

KOTA KINABALU: Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman said Universiti Malaysia Sabah will soon have an University Hospital within the main campus, here.

Upon completion, it would complement the newly set up School of Medicine of the UMS whose first batch graduated a few years ago. The medical school is already completed except for the clinical block where students undertake training at the hospital.

"The QEH at the moment is still under renovation and with the construction of the University Hospital, the students could train there," he said.

Director General of Higher Learning Department, Prof Datuk Dr Rujhan Mustafa said the Federal Government has agreed to give priority to UMS in the construction of its hospital. The actual cost is not known.

Plans for the construction of a hospital was first announced when the UMS was being built but nothing came of it after that. It was understood that the hospital was initially slated to cost around RM500 million. Musa also said that construction of the (UMS) Keningau branch would start soon following approval of allocation.

Thanking the Federal Government, in particular the Ministry of Higher Learning for the allocation, he said the State Government is also prepared to approve UMS application for more land where the branch campus would be sited.

According to him, a 30-acre site has been identified in Apin-Apin, Keningau.

"So, I hope the students will make use of the golden opportunity to study diligently to achieve success because this is the hope of their parents, families, state and country," he said, when officiating at the UMS new intake "Pledge and I Promise" programme at the Chancellor Hall.

He said it is also the aim of the country to provide citizens who are knowledgeable and intelligent.

Musa said the State Government is committed to continue the efforts to develop and enhance the level of higher learning in Sabah. This includes the construction of modern infrastructure such as the Sandakan Education Hub, he said.

All this is to generate quality human capital with first class mind to enhance the students and people's



Musa witnessing the oath-taking ceremony.

excellence in general.

He urged the freshies to strengthen their self-confidence, adhere to the campus regulations and to apply religious and cultural values.

He said their role, first and foremost, is to gain knowledge and thus they should not dampen the hopes of their parents and families. The students' enrolment into the UMS he said also reflects the hope of the government and the people to spur the nation to be more progressive and successful in the future.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon said when completed, Keningau UMS branch would be turned into a Pusat Asasi Sains (fundamental science centre).

He noted that most students enrolled into the university take up literature-stream courses. "It is the Government's aspiration and policy to have 60 per cent science programmes because we have very low number of science students," he said.