

International benchmark only for main UMS campus

By Adrian Nandu

LABUAN: The director of Universiti Malaysia Sabah-Labuan International Campus (UMS-KAL), Associate Professor Dr Shariff Abd Kadir Omang, said that the international term for UMS-KAL was primarily referring to its offered programmes of studies at the campus.

He was asked whether the campus had reached international standard after several years of its foundation here in this island.

Dr Shariff said the international benchmark was only meant for its main campus and not the branch.

"So far the international term referred to is its international programme of studies under the Labuan International Campus Business School and not the campus itself. The benchmark is applicable to its main campus in Kota Kinabalu," he said at his office.

Students have lamented that the campus has yet to build its own sport complex to be enjoyed by them just



Dr Shariff

like their peers do at the main campus in Kota Kinabalu.

Dr Shariff said an allocation of RM1.3 million had been set aside to build the stadium on the campus and the project would be carried out soon.

"We may not build a stadium like the one at the main campus, but we will upgrade the track and some of its facilities and hopefully it will be completed by this year," he said.

When asked why outside

lecturers hardly wanted to teach at UMS-KAL, he said that it might be due to logistical constraints.

"To bring outside lecturers to teach here can be challenging for them. The logistical constraints they have to face here compared to Kota Kinabalu which has a lot of facilities.

"Air travel is easy but expensive, while sea transport is inefficient due to the time spent in waiting for the journey plus the lack of facilities available here on the island.

"If they were in Kota Kinabalu, they can go travel somewhere during the weekends without any constraint," he said, adding that the main tourist attractions on the island needed to be developed more.

Dr Shariff said the idea of connecting Labuan to the mainland by means of a bridge is still relevant to boost the economy.

UMS-KAL undertook some promotions on the website and whenever there were programmes held abroad to attract international lecturers to teach here.

"So far we have 10 Bangladeshi lecturers teaching English," he said.

When asked whether UMS-KAL would introduce a medical course at the campus to cater for the shortage of medical doctors at Labuan Hospital, he responded that a medical degree programme is only offered at UMS, Kota Kinabalu.

"UMS' policy is not to offer the same course already available at the main campus to prevent the overlapping.

"However, there is a proposal to set up another course: International Management under Labuan International Campus Business School," he said.

For professional programme of studies to be incorporated such as the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and law as suggested by the public here, he said that the accountancy programme is already available at UMS, Kota Kinabalu.

UMS Kota Kinabalu will open its law studies soon with focus on Islamic law.