

KUDAT: With the establishment of the Rural Medicine Education Centre (RMEC) in Sikuati Kudat, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) hopes to accomplish the mission and vision of its School of Medicine faculty to be the prime medical centre in Malaysia and abroad.

Its Dean, Prof. Dr. Osman Ali, said UMS will continue to focus on identifying and uplifting the health problems of rural communities, conduct research, and seek avenues for the prevention and proper treatment of diseases.

RMEC, built on a 20 acre site about 20km from Kudat, began operating in a village shop building in Sikuati town in 2007 and was inaugurated on January 18, 2009 by the Minister of Higher Education Malaysia, YB Dato Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin. The centre, consisting of administration buildings, academic buildings, community halls, clinic and research buildings, student hostels, staff hous-

es and homes of lecturers, is fully equipped with necessary facilities for medical students and personnel assigned to the centre.

Students attending the Medical School are adequately provided with the necessary accommodation facilities besides other facilities like a library and a computer room equipped with WiFi internet accessibility.

Wireless internet facility provided by the UMS Media Unit of Information Technology or UMTP covers the vicinity of the central building and the Medical School. This is advantageous to students and lecturers who use laptop computers to access the internet at any time.

Students are also provided sports facilities such as a futsal football field, a volleyball court, two takraw courts and two badminton courts. Bicycle facilities for recreational activities are also available for students.

The multi-purpose hall which houses the two badminton courts can accommodate 300 visitors and is fully equipped with sound system equipment, a stage and two dressing rooms.

The other facility available at the centre is the clinic, named the 'Klinik Masyarakat', which was officially opened on 10 April 2010. The clinic provides free treatment to adoptive families of students and staff and students of the centre. There is also a gym room that has been operational since November 2009, named 'Gymnasium Rakyat' which has some weight lifting equipment. The gym is open to the villagers around Sikuati and students, including the staff of the centre.

Security at the centre is maintained by the presence of 24-hour security guards, a security booth at the front gate entrance to this centre and a closed-circuit television system that is placed on major routes into the building. The main building at the centre is also fully equipped with fire hydrants, fire alarms and fire extinguishers at strategic places.

In terms of utilities such as water and electricity, the centre is given adequate water supply for all residents and a stand-by generator with a capacity of 150KW is also available in the event of a power failure. For Muslim students and visitors, a surau is available near the students' hostel.

The objectives of the Rural Medicine Education Centre are:-

- To be the centre of operations to run the PUPUK program (University-Family Partnership Program) for medical students.

- To be a major operations centre for the Public Health for the Medical Doctor Program, Public Health Degree Program and Epidemiology Program.

UMS establishes Rural Medicine Education Centre

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Inauguration of RMEC by Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin

- To be a centre of education providing information on community or public health for medical students and nurses.

- To be a centre of health promotion of UMS Medical School in Sikuati, Kudat.

- To be the medical centre for rural community health.

- To be a platform to strengthen cooperation between the public, UMS Sikuati Kudat,

Department of Health and the authorities connected with the School of Medicine.

- To be the centre for training, development, research and referral centre for rural medicine.

- To ensure appropriate infrastructure to meet all requirements of the Medical School of UMS are provided as planned.

The following programs are

provided at the Rural Medicine Education Centre:

- Doctor of Medicine Degree Program

- Public Health Master Program

- Family Medicine Master Program

- Public Health Master Program (Epidemiology)

- Diploma in Nursing Program



Entrance to RMEC