

'HUMS can be state and region's game-changer'

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KOTA KINABALU: Higher Education Deputy Minister Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching (pic) said the UMS Teaching Hospital can be a game changer in the State and region.



"Other than a teaching hospital, it will also provide health services to Sabah people. This will definitely boost the accessibility of quality healthcare in the State," she said at the launching of the UMS Hospital Project (HUMS), Friday.

The ceremony was officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and it was also attended by Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan as well as State and Federal Cabinet Ministers.

Yap said the smart teaching hospital would realise the desire of UMS to have its own hospital for its medical students to undergo clinical learning and training.

She also said RM652 million had been allocated to build the 110,853 sq metre hospital which would have 400 beds and that the construction of the hospital was part of the Malaysia Education (Higher Education) Blueprint 2015-2025.

"UMS is among 12 of the 20 public universities in Malaysia which have a medical faculty. Each medical programme at the university requires its own teaching staff to provide 'hands-on' experience for the students.

"Besides being a teaching facility, the hospital will also provide medical services to the people in the State," she said.

Yap said the development of the smart teaching hospital would be a game changer apart from being a catalyst for development in Sabah in the Fourth, In-

dustrial Revolution.

Hospital UMS will also be equipped with various latest digital technology, including digital medical records, as well as the integration of medical equipment and non-medical equipment; smart classrooms and an examination hall.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Tan Sri Musa Aman said the construction of Hospital Universiti Malaysia Sabah (HUMS) will give added value to the Government's efforts to produce more doctors and medical specialists in the State.

Musa said Sabah is still short of doctors and specialists and the number should be increased to enable residents in the State, especially those with chronic diseases, to seek treatment here.

"I believe the model smart hospital will be able to fulfil the needs of the people to obtain treatment with comprehensive and sophisticated medical technology, apart from supporting medical education and research," he said.

Musa, who is also the UMS pro-chancellor, said the construction of HUMS is proof of the care by the Government to empower the quality of higher education infrastructure in the State.

When the smart teaching hospital comes on stream, Musa said UMS would be on par with other leading universities in the country which also offered medical study programme and have their own hospitals.

"The Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister will continue to plan and implement various approaches, including empowering medical knowledge and health services for the people," he said and hoped UMS would continue to achieve greater success in future.

In Budget 2018, the Federal Government also allocated RM1 billion to repair and restore old schools throughout the State," he said.