

# UMS Polyclinic extends health services to locals

By Sandra Sokial

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) moved a step forward towards providing better health services to the people in Sepanggar with the official launch of its polyclinic yesterday.

Dubbed the UMS Polyclinic, it will also act as an alternative clinic for its students and staff who seek medical attention after office hours.

The UMS Polyclinic opens its doors until 11pm on weekdays and up to 2pm on Saturdays.

It is located right in the heart of Kingfishers, namely the Riverside Plaza, here.

According to the UMS School of Medicine (SoM)

Dean Professor Dr Osman Ali, the idea to set up the polyclinic came about two years ago but only materialised recently due to some technical problems.

"We have in fact been in operation for a month for our students and staff, and is now ready to open our doors to the people. Our concept is similar to the government's clinics. We are a not profit-making organisation so the issue of competing with other private clinics does not arise.

"In the future, we hope to operate on a full-time basis. Right now, we have limited manpower to do so. There is only one full-time medical officer in attendance and seven trained and skilful medical staff," he said, adding that the SoM



Dr Osman (right) and Dr Muhammad Tauffik (left) cutting the ribbon to mark the official launch of the UMS Polyclinic at Riverside Plaza, Kingfishers, yesterday. - Photo by Aniq Azraei.

lecturers would spare their time to help out sometimes.

He said the polyclinic would also provide an avenue for the university's academic staff, such as those from the SoM, to practise and eventually be extended to their undergraduates,

especially the nursing students.

Among the health services available at the UMS Polyclinic are outpatient, emergency, pharmacy, laboratories and x-ray.

"We also hope to offer dental treatment in the near

future," said Dr Osman.

Also present at the event were UMS Polyclinic head Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Tauffik Muhammad Noor and Dr Asits Sanna, representing the Sabah Health Department director.