

Ministry working hard to improve health, information system

NST 13.3.2019 3

KOTA KINABALU: The application of high-tech appliances in the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Smart Hospital (HUMS) will enhance future medical and health services in Sabah.

Minister of Health and People's Wellbeing Datuk Stephen Wong said the ministry is working hard to improve its current health and information system and with HUMS serving as a smart hospital, Sabahans are bound to receive better healthcare services.

"With the system to be on in UMS, it will be started small and once it is successful, the technology will be expanded to all hospitals so that we will not only have high-tech system but also save patients' time as we are still receiving complaints of long waiting time and such," he said.

HUMS which is also a teaching hospital apart from its smart hospital status will also boost medical tourism in Sabah, he said.

Thus, Wong added that there is a need to improve existing facilities and having the hospital to contribute to the tourism economy would be a far-sighted vision for Sabah.



HIGH-TECH SYSTEM ... Wong (seated, centre), Christina (left), KY Mustafa (second left), Dr. D Kamarudin (2nd right), Chevy (right) with the participants yesterday.

"We also hope that once this hospital is completed, we will be able to produce more experts and specialists that Sabah is very in need of; we are hunting for more specialists to close the gap and doctor-patient ratio.

"We are, as compared to our counterpart in the peninsula, very far behind

so with the hospital being developed, it will definitely help us go further on this medical trailer," he said.

He was speaking after witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between UMS and Sabah Health Department and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UMS

and Health4U Solution Sdn Bhd here on Tuesday.

Also present were Sabah Health Director Datuk Dr. Christina Rundi, chairman of UMS Board of Directors Datuk KY Mustafa, UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin, CEO of Health4U Solution Sdn.

Bhd. Datuk Chevy Beh.

According to Wong the MoA which was an extension after 15 years of collaborating with the health department would help the government's health sector in terms of workforce, subsequently enhancing the people's health status.

The collaboration, he added, would also fulfill educational needs of students of UMS Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences by providing them with training, conducive and hands-on research necessities.

"It will help students prepare themselves for real work environment and conduct researches that will allow us to explore and battle new diseases while elevating Sabahan's healthcare," he said.

The ceremony was also held in conjunction with the two-day Conference on Sustainability, Niche Area and Governance of UMS Hospital.

It was attended by 80 participants who are medical practitioners, academicians and industry players who would assist HUMS on sustainability as well as governance issues. — **By DK Ryni Qareena**