

Hospital UMS to be completed next year

TBP 23.07.2021 P. 03

KOTA KINABALU: The Hospital Universiti Malaysia Sabah (HUMS) project which is delayed by the pandemic, is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

UMS vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin said the smart and modern teaching hospital is 30 per cent completed and will offer more than 400 beds with all-inclusive

medical facilities.

Officially launched in 2018, the project covering 110,853sqm was initially expected to be completed by 2021 but was delayed to March next year, before the date was further revised.

"Yes there is some delay, also due to the enhanced movement Control Order (enforced on campus) in April. With the movement restrictions,

construction workers' capacity was also reduced, as we follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set.

"But once operational, besides being a teaching hospital and a smart facility which is digitally driven, it will also function as a regional hospital – it will upgrade the healthcare landscape in Sabah," said Dr Taufiq who earlier briefed Chief Minister

Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor on the project.

The Chief Minister visited the vaccine administration centre (PPV) in UMS campus on Thursday.

Despite not having the main physical building yet, HUMS is already providing services via six centres, namely three in Kota Kinabalu and one each in Labuan, Sandakan and Kudat.

The ones in the state capital are the UMS Kingfisher polyclinic, UMS treatment centre, and a dialysis centre, while the Labuan and Sandakan are campus clinics, and the Kudat facility is a Rural Medical Education Centre with a focus on tuberculosis patients.

Dr Taufiq said they are also seeking an increase of medical students intake in UMS, which is currently at 90, to reduce the

ratio of doctor to patient in this state.

"Based on our capacity, we can actually take in 150 students, so there is room to accommodate 60 more.

"But I believe we will be able to get this approved, and if more doctors are Sabahans themselves, they will continue to serve here and not consider moving elsewhere," he added.