

# Ministry seeking V-C for eighth university

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Education Ministry is scouting for a candidate to fill the post of vice-chancellor of the country's eighth university in Sarawak.

Its Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud said today the vice-chancellor-designate and his staff would be picked early to coincide with the appointment of consultants to plan the university project.

The move, he said, was to ensure co-ordination between the academic and physical planning of the proposed university to be built in Samarahan, 35km from Kuching.

Dr Sulaiman was asked to elaborate on the new university following his announcement in Kuching yesterday that the Cabinet had approved the establishment of the university and that two papers on the incorporation of the university would be tabled at the next meeting of Parliament.

Asked whether a foreign consultant would be engaged, Dr Sulaiman said he saw no need for this as there were many experienced architects and engineers in Sarawak itself.

However, he added, if it was found that Malaysians did not have sufficient expertise in the construction of some parts of the university, for example the teaching hospital, the local consultants were free to enlist the help of their foreign colleagues.

He estimated that establishment of the university would cost the Government about \$500 million.

"Based on past experience, the cost to build a university is about \$500 million. But in the case of Sarawak, my Ministry feels that the cost is expected to be between 20 and 30 per cent more," he said.

Dr Sulaiman expects medicine and anthropology to be popular subjects

among the local as well as the foreign students.

He said Sarawak had always fascinated medical students and parasitologists from as far as Britain and Japan because a lot of diseases which occurred in the State could not be found in Peninsular Malaysia.

Sarawak also has a wealth of information to offer anthropology students as there are over 26 tribes living in the State.

Asked whether the new university would have a specialisation, Dr Sulaiman said it would be a general university offering courses like education and science but with emphasis on certain natural resources-related courses.

In view of Sarawak's rich natural resources, the new university might have faculties like forestry, petroleum and gas, maritime or even on pest control.

Dr Sulaiman said the university, yet to be named, would comprise three components: its main campus in Samarahan, a teaching hospital at Kuching's general hospital and the existing Universiti Pertanian Malaysia branch campus in Bintulu.

On why Bintulu was not chosen as the site of the main campus, he said the decision was made to save

students and staff the inconveniences faced by some local universities which were located far from the towns.

Besides reducing its attractiveness to potential lecturers and part-time lecturers, choosing Bintulu would also impose greater financial burden to students from the Peninsular as they would have to fly to Kuching first before taking another flight to Bintulu.

Apart from these, the cost of living in Bintulu was also higher and it would be harder for university personnel to find accommodation, he added.

The plan to set up the nation's eighth university in Sarawak was first announced by Dr Sulaiman during the State elections in September last year.

## New university proposed to be sited in Sarawak

By Alex Choong

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Education Ministry has proposed that a new university — the eighth in the country — be located in Kuching, Sarawak, its Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud said today.

He added that the Sarawak State Government had allocated a big piece of land to site the university.

Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman said a technical committee comprising representatives from the relevant Ministries met recently to draw up the blueprint for the establishment of the university.

A Cabinet paper on the

new university is in the final stage and will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration, he added.

According to the Minister, members of the technical committee favoured the setting up of another university.

To expedite the move, he told reporters after opening the two-day Japan Education Fair 1992, a vice-chancellor designate will be appointed.

As a temporary measure, the vice-chancellor designate and staff members could operate from the Universiti Pertanian Malaysia branch campus in Bintulu, which he described as the

"nucleus" of the new university.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud said in Sibu recently he believed that the State would eventually have its own university although the Federal Government is now against the idea.

He said the Federal Government's refusal to allow Sarawak to have a full-fledged university was probably due to fears that it could not control the standard of tertiary education in the institution.

The Federal Government is more interested in expanding facilities at the

branch campus of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia in the State.

Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib made the remarks in response to calls by some educationists and associations that Sarawak set up its own university.

The seven universities in the country are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia and Universiti Islam Antarabangsa.

These universities admit about 10,000 undergraduates yearly.

## Dr Zawawi Dipilih Naib Canselor Universiti S'wak

MENTERI Pendidikan Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud semalam mengumumkan perantikan Profesor Datuk Dr Zawawi Ismail sebagai Naib Canselor universiti kelapan negara ini yang bakal dibina di Samarahan, Sarawak.

Katanya, Dr Zawawi, 46, Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan UKM, dipilih berdasarkan

kelayakan dan pengalaman luas dalam bidang akademik.

Bellau memberitahu satu persidangan akhbar di Kuching bahawa Dr Zawawi telah bersetuju dengan perantikan itu dan akan datang ke Sarawak bagi melihat sendiri tapak pembinaan universiti itu serta menyesuaikan diri dengan keadaan di sini.

Dr Zawawi juga adalah seorang profesor Kejurute-

raan Elektronik. Beliau mendapat Ijazah Kedoktoran Falsafah dalam bidang Kejuruteraan Elektrik dan Elektronik pada tahun 1972 dan merupakan anak Melayu pertama memperoleh ijazah berkenaan pada waktu itu dari Universiti Leeds, Britain.

Beliau kemudian pulang ke tanahair dan berkhidmat sebagai pensyarah di UKM dan menjadi Dekan Sains dan

Kejuruteraan sebelum dilantik sebagai profesor pada 1981.

Dr Zawawi pernah berkhidmat di Jabatan Perdana Menteri sebagai Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Institut Sistem Mikroelektronik Malaysia (MIMOS) antara 1985 dan 1990 sebelum berkhidmat semula di UKM untuk mengetuai Fakulti Kejuruteraan.