

Tajuk : UNIMAS wants own hospital

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University requires facility as practical training base for its medical students

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KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) has insisted that it needed a hospital of its own and hoped that the Federal Government would approve an allocation for one as soon as possible.

Its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ad Hamid said the hospital was important not just to Unimas, but also the community.

He said like Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia, it would enable Unimas' Medical Faculty and Medical Science to expand and

become a well-known centre for medical studies, researches and medical specialists.

Also it would serve as a base for Unimas' medical students and those from other universities to do their practical training, he added.

Khairuddin said currently, Unimas had to send their third-year medical students to Sibu Hospital to do their practical because there was no more space available at the Sarawak General Hospital.

"The proposal for us to have own hospital had been tabled and submitted to the Higher Learning Ministry and the Health Ministry.

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budget approval and hoping that it would be approved this year," he disclosed.

Khairuddin said Unimas had initially proposed for a 600-bed hospital to be located within its campus, but the Government reduced it to 400 beds due to budget constraint.

He said the budget was calculated based on the rate of RM1.2 mil for every one bed.

According to Khairuddin, the hospital would be built adjacent to the Medical Faculty and Medical Science building, and scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

"Our target is to have our hospital fully operational in 2015," he said.

"We should be able to achieve this if the budget is approved this year."

Khairuddin said the hospital would not only help reduce congestion at the Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), but more importantly extended Unimas' medical services to the community and prevent brain drain.

He said since having its own Medical Faculty and Medical Science in 1995, Unimas had produced many doctors and medical specialists who were waiting to practise full time.

Unimas produces an average of 80 medical doctors a year.

This number is expected to increase when the university starts its family medicine and orthopaedic programmes next year.