

# 'On-campus hospital vital due to rising population in Kota Samarahan'

on 09 February 2015.



KOTA SAMARAHAN: The anticipation of local population to grow significantly over the next decade remains a push factor for the proposal of building a university hospital here.

According to Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suadi, several options have been brought up with regard to the plan, including sharing of operations with the Petra Jaya Hospital, which is currently under construction.

However, the university has informed the government of its preference to have the hospital within the campus, considering that the facility is not only meant for Unimas, but also for the locals and those from surrounding areas.

"We need to have a teaching hospital within the Kota Samarahan vicinity due to our anticipation that population growth would reach between 500,000 and 700,000 within the next 10 to 15 years. Having a full-fledged hospital in Kota Samarahan is the right way to go, and this is what we are requesting," he told reporters after officiating at the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Unimas and Sarawak Medical Centre Sdn Bhd here yesterday.

Mohamad Kadim was accompanied by the university's board of directors member Dr Herman Ritom, its deputy vice chancellors Prof Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman (students affairs and alumni) and Prof Dr Kopli Bujang (research and innovation), as well as its Faculty of Medical and Health Science dean Prof Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit.

Sarawak Medical Centre – which runs Normah Medical Specialist Centre – were represented by its chief executive officer and managing director Datuk Dr Au Yong Kien Hoe, medical centre administrator Latipah Ahmad, medical director Dr William Luong Chau, chairman Dr Gabriel Teo Yu Teck and deputy chairman Dr Wong Koh Ping.

On the proposal for the campus hospital, Mohamad Kadim said the discussion between Unimas and the government had entered a serious stage, adding that he was confident that the request would be attended to.

However, he disclosed that the estimated cost for the project had yet to be ascertained.

"Unimas is also still in discussion with the government on the modus operandi of the proposed hospital.

"In this regard, we do not rule out the involvement of private parties," he said.

Currently, Unimas is sending its medical students for practical training at Sarawak General Hospital, Timberland Medical Centre, Borneo Medical Centre and Normah Medical Specialist Centre.

**Source: The Borneo Post**