

# Unimas tasked to produce quality human resources

**KUCHING:** University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) must strive to become the leading producer of quality human resources in the country.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapha Mohamed said as one of the eight public universities in the country, Unimas could play an important role in the development of the human capital.

He said Unimas had so far produced more than 7,000 graduates since 1993 and currently has about 6,000 students taking various courses offered by the university.

"The university had also succeeded in promoting national integration, as more than 50 of its students are from other parts of Malaysia.

"It had also produced about 350 doctors, of whom more than half are serving in Sarawak, including in rural hospitals and clinics," he said at the official opening of Unimas permanent campus in Kota Samarahan yesterday.

Meanwhile, the construction of the new campus involves two phases. The first stage of Phase One was funded partly through loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The remaining costs were borne by the federal government.

The first stage of Phase One involves the construction of the Chancellery and University House, the Centre for Academic Information Services, the Centre for

Language Studies, two centres for teaching facilities, three main residential colleges and a total of five faculties - Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts, Faculty of Resource Sciences and Technology, Faculty of Cognitive Science and Human Development, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology and Faculty of Engineering.

Works on the main buildings of the first phase commenced in May 2002 and was completed at the end of 2005. Total estimated cost for this stage stands at RM980 million.

The second stage of phase one involves the construction of two faculties - Faculty of Social Science and Faculty of Economics and Business. The estimated cost for this stage is RM320 million.

The final stage involves the construction of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science and teaching hospital. Total cost of construction is estimated at RM800 million.

The design of buildings in this new campus, which is the focal point of the "Education Enclave" of Sarawak, depicts 21st century architecture, incorporating a timeless, modern and progressive outlook.

Built with an open concept in mind, the facilities and services offered are also disabled friendly.

There is also a network of pedestrian malls and various amenities which offer a campus-in-a-town concept.