

‘SAMARAHAN NEEDS HOSPITAL DUE TO POPULATION BOOM’

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KOTA SAMARAHAN: Samarahan Division requires a hospital in view of its annual six per cent population increase.

Samarahan District Council (SDC) walikota Datuk Peter Minos said the division recorded the highest growth in population across the state and is expected to have at least 200,000 residents by 2020.

“It is estimated based on the 6 per cent increment per annum that our population will go up to 300,000 by 2030. As of now, we have about 170,000 people,” he told a news conference after opening Farley (Kota Samarahan) yesterday.

Minos said SDC has initiated talks with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) in the hope of sharing in the university’s proposed learning hospital.

“Unimas is lobbying for one hospital for their own students. If possible, we can share so that we have one for medical students and one for the public.

“We have a Heart Centre in Samarahan, but that is only for heart. Hopefully Unimas will agree that we share its proposed hospital,” he said.

Meanwhile, Minos said SDC is examining a parking system similar to that used by Kuching South City Council (MBKS) and Kuching North City Commission (DBKU).

However, he said Samarahan residents may not be ready to pay parking fees in view of the rising cost of living.

“We will have to impose parking fees eventually. But our people are not ready now,” he said, without mentioning when the parking system would be implemented.

On complaints regarding the size of parking bays in Samarahan, he said the council would look into the matter.