

P.KHIDMAT MAKLUMAT AKADEMIK

UNIMAS



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PM'S SIGNATURE ... Dr Mahathir signing on the foundation stone at Unimas yesterday.

Taib: Two chairs will be set up

KUCHING, Tues. — Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud announced today the setting up of two chairs at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) to promote research on technological science and medical chemistry.

The Tun Openg Chair and Tun Zaidi Chair will be sponsored by the Sarawak Higher Institution Foundation which has allocated RM2.5 million.

Taib presented the cheques for the amount to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who then handed them to Unimas vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Zawawi Ismail.

The presentation was made at a ceremony in which the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for Unimas in Kota Samarahan.

In a surprise announcement, Shell Malaysia, which was represented by chief executive Datuk Chris Knight, said the corporation would also set up the Shell Chair for engineering research and had agreed to allocate RM2 million.

Earlier, Taib described Unimas as the "people's university". He said the State Government would continue to support the development of the university.

He thanked the Federal Government, Dr Mahathir

and Education Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud for their contributions and sacrifices in making Unimas a reality.

"When Sarawak joined Malaysia 30 years ago, only 10 per cent of our children could attend secondary school. Now, we have progressed so much and we can be proud to host a university," Taib said.

The State Government also planned to build a science technology park near Unimas to facilitate research and development.

Dr Sulaiman said Unimas was a university of opportunity which would respond to the challenges of change

and would participate in the creation of a developed Malaysia.

Unlike other universities in Malaysia, Unimas was established after Vision 2020 was conceptualised. As such, Unimas' strength would be on its modern vision and its ability to be innovative.

The objective was to produce a breed of quality graduates competent and able to meet the challenges.

Work on the first phase of the turnkey project, costing RM15.6 million, started early last month and about 70 per cent has been completed. Work is expected to be completed next month.