

Unimas still without its own teaching hospital

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KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) is still waiting for the government to build its teaching hospital to enhance quality, especially R&D, for its medical students and professors.

It copes by sending its medical students and lecturers to three hospitals in Sarawak: Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), Serian Hospital and Sibu Hospital.

According to Unimas' former vice-chancellor (who declined to

be named), a campus teaching hospital would cost half a billion ringgit at least.

"As a former vice-chancellor, I would like to put on record that we have requested for the funding to build a teaching hospital for Unimas on many occasions.

"But every time we brought up the subject to the relevant ministry, we were told that there is not enough funding as it was deemed too costly. It's beyond our control," he told The Borneo Post here yesterday.

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400 bed hospital, it would be 400 beds multiplied by about RM1.5 million per bed, which comes to a staggering RM600 million.

The government, he said, had proposed to use the soon-to-be-built RM500 million Petrajaya Hospital as a teaching hospital for Unimas.

he said.

Sending medical students and lecturers to faraway hospitals incurred extra cost for the university as well as displacement for a certain period of time.

"It's too taxing for both students and their lecturers to, for instance, go to Serian and Sibu hospitals just for certain subjects and training," he opined.

The former vice-chancellor revealed that Unimas' annual intake of medical students is about 120.

Unimas is however not the only public university in the country without its own training hospital as Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) too is using Serdang Hospital in Selangor as training hospital.

Recently, a Malaysian medical doctor working overseas observed that Unimas should have its own training hospital to improve the quality of its medical students, graduates and professors.

The training hospital would also provide an avenue for them to do research on specific diseases and on specialised subjects.