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World-class medical centre for Sarawak

KUCHING, Sun. - Sarawak is to build a world-class medical centre to meet growing demand for secondary and tertiary medical care by its people and those from Brunei and Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who launched the proposed Sarawak International Medical Centre last night, said the project had the blessings of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng.

So far, five organisations have pledged RM1 million each towards the centre's construction, which would take between three and four years.

The five are Baitulmal, Sarawak Enterprise, Cahya Mata Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation.

Taib did not say what the cost of the project would be but disclosed that it would be built near the proposed Cyber Village, between Kuching and Kota Samarahan.

He said existing medical facilities would not be able to meet the future requirements of Sarawak.

Present at the launch held at a hotel were Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr George Chan Hong Nam, NMSC managing director Datuk Dr Saw Huat Seong and members of the Mayo Clinic of the United States.

Mayo Clinic is an adviser on technical and operational issues to the SIMC.

A NMSC Press statement issued in late 1994 had stated that the State Government had commissioned Mayo Clinic to carry out a feasibility study for an international medical centre in the State capital.

The proposed SIMC will be headed by Dr Saw, an internationally renowned Malaysian cardiothoracic surgeon.

Plans for the proposed centre include in- and out-patient services and procedures, teaching programmes for Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, specialised laboratory services as well as research in basic science and clinical medicine, continuing education for medical staff, and testing and development of medical equipment and technology.

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