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Samy Vellu: Proposed Darul Aman University to offer cheaper courses

ALOR STAR, Wed. - Courses offered by the proposed Darul Aman University in Semeling, Sungai Petani, will be cheaper by between 20 and 25 per cent than those offered by universities abroad.

The university, set up by the MIC in association with the Bristol University of the United Kingdom, would take in the first batch of 200 students next year.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said students taking courses at the university would enjoy a reduced fee of up to 25 per cent.

"A medical course at a university in India, for example, costs RM250,000. This will be reduced by between 20 and 25 per cent at the proposed university."

He was speaking to reporters after briefing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the progress of the proposed university at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Kepala Batas here.

Dr Mahathir arrived here today to celebrate Hari Raya Haji which falls tomorrow.

The first batch of students, comprising 50 from the Faculty of Medicine and 150 from the Faculty of Engineering, will begin classes at a temporary campus in Sungai Petani, five kilometres from the proposed main campus.

Besides medicine and engineering, the university - to be built on an 84ha site at a cost of RM300 million - will also offer courses in science and multimedia.

Samy Vellu said although the university would be open to foreigners, priority would be given to local students.

Construction under Phase One was expected to start within eight months, to be completed in 2 1/2 years at a cost of RM120 million.

Samy Vellu said Maju Institute of Education Development, MIC's education arm, had raised RM30 million for the university project.

He said they would raise RM25 million through internal funding while the balance through bank loans, Government aid and donations.

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