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Universiti Malaysia Sabah to offer 23 more first degree courses by 2010

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. - Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) plans to introduce 23 more first degree academic programmes by 2010, while continuing to add relevant courses to its post-graduate programme.

UMS Assistant Registrar (public relations) Mohd Farish Hussain said the university already offered 54 first degree academic programmes at the main campus in Sepanggar Bay and the Labuan branch campus.

The university has 3,234 students this academic year, a contrast to the 205 students it had for the first academic session in 1995/96.

Prior to moving to Sepanggar Bay in 1999, the university operated from the former Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia branch campus on Jalan Tuaran and from the Yayasan Sabah community college complex.

The School of Science and Technology, main lecture hall and the Centre for Language and Knowledge were completed in June 1999 in the first phase of construction.

Their construction was followed by the School of Social Science, Business and Economics, Engineering and Information Technology, Chancellory, sports complex and hostel for 3,200 students. They were ready in May 2000.

The School of Fine Arts, Marine Borneo Research Institute, Tropical Biology and Conservation Institute, Education and Social Development building, library, health centre and mosque were completed in September last year.

Farish said the development cost under Phase 1 was RM1.3 billion.

He said a main hall for the convocation ceremony would be constructed under Phase 2.

Other buildings planned for the second phase are the International Tropical Forestry School, Psychology and Social Work School, Food Science and Nutrition School, central store, student services centre and field.

Infrastructure for the second phase cost RM410 million and will be ready at the end of next year.

UMS was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and formed under the Universiti Malaysia Sabah Corporation Act 1994.