

# New township to be catalyst for growth

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**ALOR STAR:** An X8-room hotel will be part of the proposed Bandar Universiti township to be built on a 54.6ha site near the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) campus in Sintok.

The project will be undertaken by UUM's wholly owned subsidiary Uniutama Management Holdings Sdn Bhd (UMHSB) in a joint venture with another company.

UUM vice-chancellor Kol Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Fawzi Mohd Basri said the project was expected to take off next year with a RM19mil four-storey executive development centre which would accommodate the hotel, an auditorium and conference rooms.

"Other components of the project are a shopping centre, bowling alley, 600 housing units, taxi station and a petrol station," he said here on Wednesday during a press conference on UUM's 20th anniversary celebration next year.

Besides serving UUM's student population of more than 20,000, Dr Ahmad Fawzi said the township would be a catalyst for other development.

He envisioned that Sintok, once a communist hotbed, would become a new development area in north Kedah in five to 10 years.

He also said UMHSB was expected to chalk up RM1.3mil after-tax profit from a RM13mil turnover this year.

He said UMHSB's commercial activities included managing the University Inn in UUM, running the campus bus service, vehicle repair, tourism, and assembling and marketing its SerindIT computers.

He said the company, which was established in May 1999,

now owned 34 buses and has 262 employees, most of whom are UUM graduates.

Dr Ahmad Fawzi also said UUM would set up the Dr Mahathir Thoughts Institute which would be a centre for studies, seminars, conferences and colloquiums.