

State prepared to approve application by UMS to build branch in Keningau

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KOTA KINABALU: The State government is prepared to approve the application by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to build another branch campus in Keningau.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman told reporters this after an event for new students to pledge their oath held at UMS here yesterday.

“Other than the main campus in Kota Kinabalu, the university also has a branch in Labuan and one in Sandakan that is nearing completion; God willing the branch campus in Keningau will

start building soon,” he said.

The branch in Labuan is also an international campus.

Vice chancellor of UMS Prof Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon said the campus in Keningau is expected to start building by the end of the year.

“The area is a 30-acre site in Apin-Apin and if all goes well then the

construction will be implemented as soon as possible. We want it to start soon,” he said.

For a start, the Keningau campus will offer only basic science programmes.

“Keningau is not far from Kota Kinabalu and we want the campus to also be a research centre for agriculture

and livestock like buffaloes and goats.

“The only problem now is there aren’t enough students in science; most are in the arts field... it still has not achieved the government’s aspiration for 60 per cent science students and 40 per cent in arts,” added Dr Kamaruzaman.