

# UTHM opening campus in Kluang

**REGIONAL FIRST:** Railway engineering course will attract undergraduates

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**T**HE establishment of institutions of higher learnings, here, is expected to give this town a big boost. Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) recently announced plans to set up a branch campus, while Kluang Community College opened at its new premises.

These developments will attract people seeking to further their studies to come to the district.

UTHM's branch campus will offer a railway engineering course, which is appropriate for a town closely associated with the railway industry.

The campus, which will comprise a learning institute complex and residential colleges, is expected to be built at the cost of about RM250



The present **UTHM Kluang** campus building. Pic by Adnan Ibrahim

million, although its location is still being finalised.

The Higher Education Ministry's request for a 1.25ha piece of land here from Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd is still being mullied over

by the company.

UTHM is set to be the first university in Southeast Asia to offer a course in railway engineering.

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## Residents applaud education initiative

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UTHM vice-chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin, said the initial stage would only see undergraduate courses being offered.

"We have also received applications for long-distance learning, but that will only be offered at a later time," he said.

For health officer Mohd Salleh Sulaiman, it is good to have such colleges in Kluang as they will bring more outsiders here.

"We should be proud to be able to produce more educated young people from Kluang," he said.

His sentiment was shared by Fel-da Bukit Tongkat manager Zainal Abidin Gilani.

"I'm happy that Kluang will now have its own community college so our children do not need to go far to study. They can do their higher studies in Kluang itself," he said.

S. Brammysammy @ Palanisamy also applauded the state government for its initiative in locating the institutions of higher learning here.

"Our town is expanding and growing. Estates are being cleared and development is taking place.

"The colleges will be able to enrol students from Kluang itself," he said.