



Universiti Malaysia Pahang's mechanical engineering faculty dean Associate Professor Dr Rosli Abu Bakar and lecturer Wong Hong Mun (centre) at Mohd Muslim Roslan's home in Felda Bukit Sagu 2 recently. — NST picture by Shahru Nizam Mohamad

Muslim to get 4WD wheelchair

KUANTAN: After creating a special chair for a dwarf student in Pekan, the Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) engineering team is on another mission — to build a four-wheel-drive wheelchair.

The wheelchair is for Mohd Muslim Roslan, 16, who has no arms and only one deformed leg.

UMP offered to help after the *New Straits Times* highlighted the teenager's plight recently.

The 4WD wheelchair will enable Muslim, who lives in Felda Bukit Sagu 2, to move around his home and the neighbourhood, which has an undulating terrain.

UMP mechanical engineering faculty dean Assoc Prof Dr Rosli Abu Bakar

said the wheelchair would also be fitted with a seat belt to ensure Muslim's safety.

"Six of our engineering experts will design and build the wheelchair within four months," he said after visiting Muslim at his home.

Rosli was accompanied by a lecturer from the faculty, Wong Hong Mun.

Rosli said building the wheelchair would be challenging as it would have to suit Muslim's needs.

Dr Rosli is hoping that the public and private companies would chip in.

"With more funds, we can build a better vehicle for him."

At present, Muslim either rolls over or pushes himself with the leg to move around.

Despite the limitations, Muslim is an independent teenager and prefers to do everything himself.

He also plays football with his friends. He is the goalkeeper and will roll to stop or push the ball away.

Rosli said the engineering team would also design a gadget which would enable Muslim to use the electrical appliances at home and use the toes for utensils.

The teenager, meanwhile, is excited about the prospect of having a 4WD wheelchair.

"I don't want to burden others, especially my father, who has to carry me when we are outside," said Muslim who lives with his parents and a younger brother.