Bogo: The Winged Boat Of The Sea Bajau in Sabah

Abstract

The Sea Bajau or Pala'u is one of the Bajau ethnic groups residing on the east coast of Sabah. The community practises a sea nomad's lifestyle and is famous for its lepa-lepa boat in which they dwell. To preserve its heritage and culture, Sabah's Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment has listed the 'Lepa-Lepa Festival' as one of the events on the Sabah tourism calendar. Apart from lepa-lepa, the Sea Bajau community also has another type of uniquely designed boat called boo'gok-boo'gok. It is a winged boat used for fishing. However, scholars who study this community seldom mention it. This article highlights the boo'gok-boo'gok as part of the cultural heritage of this community.