**Culture by ethnic diversity an asset: UMS VC**

Kota Kinabalu: Culture shaped by ethnic diversity is an important asset in the Malaysian context.

Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Prof. Datuk CSM, Dr. Taufiq Yap Yun Hin said culture was not only viewed in terms of modernity but also in terms of cultural values as a result of ethnic diversity.

"This cultural value has shaped the civilization that is being created now and in the future.

"This culture is a national identity of Malaysia and the uniqueness of regional ethnic culture in the Borneo context should be shared with the global community," he said at the opening of the 2019 Regional Culture and Ethnic Conference (Persep) at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) Campus.

The programme, organised by Posat Penataran Ilmu dan Bahasa (PPIB) UMS, was attended by over 200 participants including key presenters. According to Taufiq, Persep is an excellent platform to bring together culture and ethnic experts across the Southeast Asian region to share their ideas and expertise in collaboration with research and publications.

According to him, regional ethnic culture has shown the world that we can shape culture from indigenous ethnic diversity, especially in the Borneo region based on our rich heritage, heritage and cultural values.

"The ethnic diversity we have is not only a tourist attraction but a great example to other countries.

"Therefore, let us not allow the current trend of modernization and progress to be a hindrance to our ethnic culture," he added.

The two-day conference was organised in collaboration with Intan Sabah Campus, Department of National Unity and National Integration (PINTI), and Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (Unissa) Postgraduate Studies Center, Brunei Darussalam.

Taufiq also witnessed the Letter of Intent (LoI) signing between UMS and Unissa PPIB UMS Dean, Prof. Dr. Jualong Atlan Ganssa and Sri Rahayu @ Nurjana Dollah.

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**Expanding ties with East Kalimantan will create mutual benefits – CM**

Kota Kinabalu: Sabah aims to expand ties with Indonesia's East Kalimantan to realise mutual benefits between both governments in boosting bilateral trade and security in the region.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal has reaffirmed calls for stronger relations between the two countries to prepare for imminent potential from Indonesia's plan to relocate its capital to East Kalimantan.

"Even regionally, the planned relocation of the national capital will bring a wave of major infrastructure development for East Kalimantan, as well as trigger economic spinoffs for both Malaysia and Indonesia," said Shafie.

Speaking at the Sabah Geostategic Convention, Shafie further underlined the importance for the states to be prepared for the impact of the relocation including enhancing cross-border security in the region.

The text of his speech was delivered by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Jaguan Haji Sembakung, who is also Minister of Local Government and Housing.

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**Kesusteraan Melayu boleh jadi wadah perpaduan**

SANDAKAN: Kesusteraan Melayu boleh menjadi wadah perpaduan masyarakat pelbagai suku kaum dan budaya di negara ini kata Sasterawan Negara Prof Emeritus Dr Muhammad Salih.

Katakan usaha itu boleh mempertaruhkan lagi pandangan terhada kepelbadaan hidup bersama dan mengukuhkan peggabungan kebudayaan di negara ini.

"Salah satu disebab oleh negeri yang sudah berjaya merupakan hubungan suku-suksu kaumnya dan saya rasa sastera juga patut berstruktur.

"Walauupun Saula datang daripada satu suku yang leci, (tetapi) bukan berbuka suku dan nilai-nilai anda tidak pening.

"Kita boleh belajar daripada semua orang dan sastera patut tolong kita belajar apa yang dicjek, dikerangka dan diberikan oleh semua suku," katanya kei-

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**New Sabah Times**

Thursday November 7, 2019

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**New Sabah Times**

Thursday November 2, 2019

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