

Universities Cultural Fest

STATE Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Hajiji Noor (second from right) receiving a souvenir from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin ((UNISZA), Prof. Madya Dr Nik Wan

Omar, after the former declared open the 2014 Malaysian Universities Cultural Festival (Festkum) in Tuaran, Friday night.

Looking on are (from left) Tuaran District Officer AM Ibnu Kadir Baba and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Madya Datuk Dr Kasim Mohd Mansur. UMS is the host institution for the event this year. Dr Nik is also the Chairman of the Malaysian Universities Cultural Council (Makum) which organised the week-long festival. In his speech, Hajiji, who is Sulaman Assemblyman, said Tuaran felt honoured to have been chosen as the venue for the opening ceremony for Festkum held in Sabah for the first time.

The unique Sumayau dance of the Dusun Lotud people found only in the Tuaran district served as the curtain raiser for the evening.

Hajiji also thanked UMS for hosting the event this year, adding that it was timely as such a festival is the perfect avenue for fostering national



unity through cultural integration. Quoting a Malay proverb, he pointed out that national integration is best thought from the young, including students at institutions of higher learning.

He said the Sabah government would support any effort that would forge national unity and integration, which is essential in building a strong nation. He added that through the festival, students not just from different universities but also, more importantly, from different states throughout the country can learn each other's culture and tradition.

Among the activities during the festival is the staging of cultural dances at the Suria Shopping Complex on Sunday (March 2) where the closing ceremony will also be held in the evening. The public are welcome.