

# UMS to produce animated cartoon series highlighting environmental issues

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will undertake to produce an animated cartoon series entitled 'The Blooms' that focuses on environmental issues.

The series would be based on the Maliau Basin Conservation Area and aims to educate the younger generation about the rich biodiversity of Sabah.

Yesterday, the university signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with North Borneo Media Sdn Bhd (NBM) to embark on the project next month.

Both UMS and NBM hope to promote the cartoon not only locally but to the international markets as well and eventually turn it into a movie.

The MoU was signed by Deputy Vice Chancellor of UMS, Associate Professor Datuk Dr. Kassim Mansur and managing director of NBM, Mohammed Fikhree Abu Bakar.

Speaker of the Sabah Legislative Assembly, Datuk Seri Panglima Salleh Tun Said Keruak witnessed the event.

Meanwhile, UMS is already planning to make an epic film with NBM on the Murut warrior, Antenom, who fought the colonists

to protect his tribe.

Mohammed Fikhree said the creative media industry's main problem was the lack of funds. He said those in the industry were not in the financial position to explore the creative media field further and needed help from other sources.

Under the MoU, the university will provide the talent and manpower.

Apparently, there were offers from companies based in the peninsula to collaborate with the UMS School of Art but they were turned down as UMS wanted to provide the opportunity to a local company and NBM was the appropriate choice.

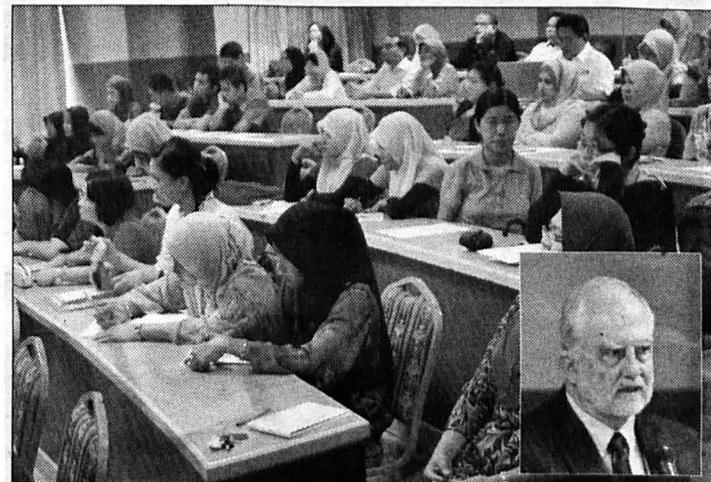
Meanwhile, Salleh, who is also the Sabah Umno Liaison deputy chief, said although there were many unanswered questions over the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) controversy, the matter should be left for the authorities to take appropriate action. He said the NFC issue did not involve the government but a company that had taken a loan from the government.

Furthermore, he said Wanita Umno chief, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, had given her explanation and so had the NFC. Shahrizat is also the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development.



Fikhree (left) exchanging documents with Dr. Kassim witnessed by Salleh (second left). At right is UMS Registrar, Major (H) Datuk Abdullah Mohd Said.

**Correction.** Ahmad Fuad Md Kasim is the senior general manager (asset management) of Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) and not as published on December 14.



Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) School of Social Sciences on Tuesday held a Language Research Seminar which was presented by the Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University, Prof James T Collins (inset picture). The seminar focused on linguistic topics such as its history, geography and communications. Collins has worked at Malaysia's National University (1980-1983, 1995-2008).