



Amri explaining one of the portraits at the exhibition to Jalihah.

## 'Faces of Sabah' photography workshop, exhibition at UMS

BP 7.11.2019 2

**KOTA KINABALU:** Up and coming photographers should put more emphasis on the content in their photos rather than focus on 'popular' photography.

Professional photographer Amri Ginang said young photographers should not focus too much on how many likes their photos would get on social media.

Their photos may be aesthetically pleasing but most are lacking in content, he said.

"As a photographer, I always want to interpret something through my photos. What I interpret is based on the subject matter of my photography, the surroundings and matters that interest me.

"What I would suggest to new photographers is to learn the art of photography, instead of learning to use their gadgets.

"I notice that many young photographers now get sophisticated equipment, and, of course, the photos produced look good, but there is no content.

"I would suggest that they spend time to learn the art of seeing. Sometimes, even with a camera, we don't see things that should be captured.

"This is not a popular effort but I would like to encourage it. I advise aspiring photographers to listen to themselves; they must have their own direction and interpretation," said Amri.

He spoke to reporters after officiating at his 'Faces of Sabah' photography workshop and exhibition at University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Faculty of Humanities, Art and Heritage.

During the workshop, he shared with students and faculty members the basics of using a camera and understanding one of the branches of digital art.

The workshop was a platform

for participants to sharpen their skills and learn new ones, to produce better quality photos.

Amri also shared that popular photography does not always pay as a business, and does not guarantee jobs. He shared with participants how to make it as a photographer and to know the difference between commercial photography and fine art photography.

In January 2020, Amri will begin a new project of producing 100 portraits of Sabahan faces.

Amri said the portraits would include various ethnicities and members of society.

"The portraits would be closeup shots of faces. I will be going around Sabah for this project, and it would be a combination of art and humanity. I enjoy these kinds of portraits because I enjoy sharing memories," he said.

The project would span about two months and is sponsored by a government agency, according to Amri.

He added that he will be shooting politicians, musicians, doctors and policemen, to name a few.

Meanwhile, UMS Faculty of Humanities, Art and Heritage deputy dean (academic and international) Dr Jalihah Md Shah, hoped the workshop would enhance skills of students and staff alike, to shoot using proper techniques and produce more meaningful photos.

She added that UMS would cooperate with more industry players in different fields, to add value to the university, and, especially, to provide exposure which would benefit students.

Dr. Jalihah represented UMS vice chancellor Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin at the officiating ceremony of the workshop and exhibition.