

# 50 Years of Independence: UMS-PUSAKA Organise Native Customary Rights Symposium

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**THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST** – A symposium on Sabah Native Customary Rights will be held on 02-03 September in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.

The symposium which will be held at the Postgraduate Studies Centre Auditorium, UMS is jointly organised by the Kadazandusun Chair of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), the School of Social Sciences (SSS) UMS and *Pusat Sumber Adat dan Mediasi Kaum Anak Negeri Sabah* (PUSAKA).

The Kadazandusun Chair, Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan said that the objective of organising this symposium among others was to understand the Native customary rights in Sabah besides evaluating the Native Court System.

With the theme ‘Native Rights After 50 Years of Independence’, the symposium will also highlight major issues affecting Native rights in Sabah and to draw up guidelines and propose strategies to deal with these issues.

“This two-day symposium is expected to draw more than 300 participants including leaders and heads of native customs in Sabah. Indeed the symposium is timely as we celebrates Sabah’s 50<sup>th</sup> year of independence in Malaysia,” Dr. Jacqueline added.

She said this when contacted by UMS reporter at her office today. - *FL*

By Salbinous Saribun

*Chancellery Department*