

UMS Documents Papar District History

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TUESDAY, 10 MARCH – Kimanis District situated at the West Coast of Sabah, which is currently experiencing rapid social and economic transformation, has its own story that was documented in history mentioning Kimanis’ existence since 600 years ago, in the year 1413.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) unravels the histories of this district through the publication of its special book entitled “Kimanis: Old State, Sacred Land”.

The book edited by lecturers of the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage (FKSW), Baszley Bee Basrah bee, Eko Prayitino Joko, and Zainuddin Baco has gone through the process of research, seminar and written for 10 months, from April to December 2014.

The book contains 12 sections written by 13 authors from various academic background and faculties.

The writing based on field research in the Kimanis area was also assisted by postgraduate students and Final Year students of History Programme, FKSW, oral tradition and oral sources from Kimanis residents as reference, besides existing documentation from archives and libraries in and outside of the country.

This book displays the natural heritage that forms the physical nature, fauna and flora of Kimanis, its population and settlement history.

Readers will then be taken to the olden days when Kimanis was a state and was the dividing point between the inner-Brunei and outer-Brunei for Saba’ and North Borneo.

The next story of this only American colony in Malaysia shared are the Ellena Colony or its famous moniker “Ellena Kingdom”. Kimanis became the administrative centre of the colony, which stretched from Kimanis to Sandakan.

This 218-page book was launched by Malaysian Foreign Minister, Datuk Seri Anifah Aman in conjunction with the Malaysian Formation Agreement 1963 Forum at the Main Lecture Hall Complex 2, UMS recently. – *MA (fl)*

Photo: Johaidi Ismail

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