

UMS Kadazandusun Chair to hold symposium

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KOTA KINABALU: The Kadazandusun Chair, together with the School of Social Sciences, UMS, and the Pusat Sumber Adat dan Mediasi Kaum Anak Negeri Sabah (PUSAKA) will hold the 'Symposium on Sabah Native Land Rights: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward', at the new auditorium of the UMS Centre for Postgraduate Studies, on Jan 30 and 31.

Assoc Prof Dr Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan, holder of the Kadazandusun Chair and chairperson of the symposium's organising committee, said the objectives of the symposium are:

- * To understand land use, natural resource management and governance in Sabah,

- * To highlight major issues

affecting native land rights in Sabah,

- * To draw up guidelines and propose strategies to deal with these issues.

The keynote speaker will be Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Richard Malanjum, Chief Judge of the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak.

The first day will concentrate on papers presented by experts dealing with native land, including Assoc Prof Dr Ramy Bulan (head, Centre for Malaysian Indigenous Studies, University of Malaya), Datuk Osman Jamal (director Sabah Lands and Surveys Department), Kevin Joibi (Attorney General's Chambers), Martin Idang (PUSAKA), Juprin Wong Adamal (Attorney General's Chambers), Tan Sri Simon Sipau

(ex-vice-chairman of SUHAKAM and former State Secretary), Dr Paul Porodong and Dr Gaim James Lunkapis (senior lecturers at the UMS School of Social Sciences), and Datuk Douglas Primus (Judicial Commissioner, the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak, Tawau).

The second day will be a half day beginning with discussion groups, followed by a panel forum.

Invitations are being sent to all District Officers, Ketua Daerah and Wakil Ketua Anak Negeri from each district in Sabah, together with representatives from relevant government departments, NGOs and cultural associations. 50 places will be open for interested members of the public.