

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman yesterday urged Muslims to appreciate the beauty of Islamic art as it depicts their true identity.

Lately Muslims had been wrongly associated with acts of terrorism and violence apart from being perceived as weak and lacked progress, but this can be proven wrong through the Islamic art works.

Musa said this at the opening of the Islamic Art Festival 2003 at Universiti Malaysia Sabah here yesterday.

His speech was read out by Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister Datuk Sapawi Ahmad.

Musa said the fine and exquisite quality of the Islamic art works symbolised the culture and discipline of Muslim artists and their community.

"Hence, in conjunction with the Merdeka Month celebration, let us invoke the feeling of patriotism for the country apart from appreciating the beauty of Islamic art and inculcating the resolve to become Muslims who are strong, capable, respected and successful," he said.

Musa hoped activities held in conjunction with the art festival would be used as the stage to prop-

# Islamic art depicts true identity of Muslims: Musa

agate Islamic teachings.

"For instance, events like the nasyid competition. These Islamic songs have gained footing among the adult listeners lately and there are various versions," he said.

Musa said nasyid was among the best tools to guide mankind towards global peace apart from cementing unity and solidarity in the society.

The festival, which began Sept 1, ends Monday. Among its activities are nasyid competition, Quranic and poetry recital and Islamic calligraphy exhibition. — Bernama

Sapawi who represented the Chief Minister receiving a souvenir from Abdul Ghafur Haji Tahir.

