

UMS Multicultural Festival unites community

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KOTA KINABALU: University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) buzzed with excitement and vibrant displays of cultural diversity as the annual Multicultural Festival hosted by UMS Mandarin Club, UMS 24 Festive Drums Team, Confucius Institute UMS and Sony Malaysia took place on June 16.

The event, which drew approximately 500 participants, was a spectacular celebration of the myriad cultures that enriched our community.

The festival opened with a powerful combination of 24 festive drums and the traditional musical instrument of Sabah, performed by the UMS 24 Festive Drums Team and E-SENTRA.

This had set the tone for a delightful multicultural feast. The festival featured an array of performances, culinary delights, traditional crafts, and educational exhibits, showcasing the rich tapestry of cultures represented in our community.

"The enthusiasm and participation from the community were truly inspiring," said Victor Chia, president of the UMS Multicultural Festival 2024.

"It is remarkable to see all of us indulging ourselves in the sea of multiculturalism regardless of our



The UMS Chinese Orchestra Club's rendition of 'Original Sabahan'.

ethnic backgrounds. Seeing people from diverse backgrounds come together to share their cultural heritage and learn from one another was a powerful reminder of the strength in our diversity," he said.

Highlights of the festival included stunning performances on the main stage, where UMS student clubs dazzled audiences with traditional dances, music and drum shows.

One standout performance was the UMS Chinese Orchestra Club's rendition of 'Original Sabahan', a trademark song of Sabah, which captivated the crowd with its vibrant energy and multicultural significance.

Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. Many expressed their appreciation for the inclusive and welcoming atmosphere of the festival.

"I loved how everyone was so open and eager to share their culture. I was touched when I saw everyone enjoying the stage, singing and dancing together during the closing ceremony," said Tan Jian Hua. "It was a beautiful experience to see so many different traditions being celebrated in one place."

Organisers expressed their gratitude for the support from the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry, the Confucius Institute of UMS, Sony Malaysia, Gerid's

Kitchen, and STWA Sdn Bhd and many more organisations, which made the event even more meaningful.

As the festival concluded organisers were already looking ahead to next year. "We are thrilled with the success of this year's event and are excited to start planning for next year," said Chia.

"Our goal is to continue celebrating the diversity of our community and to provide even more opportunities for cultural exchange and understanding."

For more information or to provide feedback regarding the event, kindly contact Victor Chia at 011-2810 0792.