



Kamaruzaman beating the gong to signify the event's official launching as Rukiah (far right), Faizuddin (far left) and Johan (second left) look on.

Awareness on IP rights in Sabah is still very low

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KOTA KINABALU: Awareness on the importance of having intellectual property rights is still very low in Sabah, said Universiti Malaysia Sabah Vice Chancellor Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon.

"Many take this matter lightly because they don't see it as a problem which could effect them or any organisation, in fact the level of awareness is so low that some might even use someone else's work without realising that it's an offence."

He said this during an inaugural State-level Intellectual Property Seminar held at UMS here, attended by academicians and students of higher learning institutions, Thursday.

The seminar was organised by UMS in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO), Tun Mohd Fuad Stephen Borneo Research Library, Sabah Foundation and UMS Library Department.

He also pointed out that there are some who steal someone else's work with the purpose of profiteering with no respect for the owner.

"This issue is hard to curb especially with the attitude of our people who prefer buying and using duplicated products because their prices are much cheaper compared to original products.

"Two main issues which are synonymous with our community is selling and duplicating

products. It's rampant and seems to be never ending, despite numerous measures taken by the enforcement to stop it," he said.

In this respect, he hoped the seminar would act as a platform to create awareness on the importance of intellectual property among the participants and the community as a whole.

Apart from that, he said universities are not just centres to produce successful individuals but also to produce high quality intellectual property.

Intellectual property rights are important because under this law, owners are granted exclusive rights to a variety of intangible assets, such as music, literary, discoveries, inventions and words, among others.

"These are important assets because it could be commercialised and generate income to its owner, so it's important to get your work registered for intellectual property to prevent others from taking advantage of your work."

He explained that common intellectual property rights include copyrights, trademarks, patents and industrial design rights.

"Last year, UMS registered 15 patents but UMS is not only limited to patents. In fact, copyrights for books are also being updated," he said, adding that collecting data is an on-going process.