



LAUNCHED...
Rahim (second
right) launching
the ceremony,
witnessed by
(from left) UMS
Deputy Vice
Chancellor
(Academy)
Professor Dr
Sanudin Tahir,
organising
chairman Prof
Madya Dr
Mohd Ismail
Abdullah and
UMS Vice
Chancellor
Professor Datuk
Dr Mohd Noh
Dalimin at
Hyatt Regency
Kinabalu last
night.

84 papers to be presented at Food Science and Nutrition meet

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KOTA KINABALU: The National Conference on Food Science and Nutrition 2006 was officially launched last night by Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail.

A total of 84 papers will be presented during the two-day conference, which sees the participation of 110 participants from the public and private higher learning intitutes, local and Federal Government research institutes as well as Government departments.

The conference, with the theme "Innovations in Research and Development: Enhancing the Quality of Life", is organised by the School of Food Science and Nutrition, University Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Abdul Rahim in his speech said the Malaysian Government aims for the country to be a food exporter by 2010.

He also said the State Government through its Agriculture and Food Industry Ministry is trying to increase

the domestic food production to reduce the food import bill.

"It has become the responsibility of the ministry to modernise and transform the food production sector into a dynamic and competitive entity," he said.

Abdul Rahim cited as example the setting up of the Sabah Meat Technology Centre in Kinarut, Papar by the ministry on October 30 this year.

The centre costs about RM9 million and is equipped with the latest and advanced technology for veterinary examination, halal meat slaughtering and processing meat, which meet the international standard, and provides training for human resource in meat production, he added.

"With the centre, we hope to see significant effect in the development of the meat-based food industry in Sabah," said Rahim, adding that it has also become a role model and stepping stone for the Government to upgrade the quality of meat and

fulfil the safety standard of local meat production.

"In the effort to increase agriculture production, the Government has implemented various projects, including the Permanent Food Production Park," said Rahim.

According to him, another six areas with 1,595 hectares in Papar, Kinabatangan, Tawau and Beaufort have been identified for the purpose.

Abdul Rahim said this was to encourage investors to invest in local food production and thus reducing dependence on imported food as well to export the products so as to generate income for the State Government.

Among the modernisation and transformation efforts involved the use of automation, modern technology and latest knowledge, he said.

He also said that the country needs research and development for the food sector to produce food not only of high quality but also competitive at the national and international levels.