

Mahakarya 2026 showcases talents of ASTIF students

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KOTA KINABALU: The Mahakarya 2026 serves as an important platform for students from the Academy of Arts and Creative Technology (ASTIF) to showcase their ability and connect academic knowledge with realities of society and the contemporary creative industry.

According to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor, the event not only exhibited the students' final year projects but served as a space to test their knowledge, artistic exploration and application of creative research.

"Each work presented is not only the result of natural talent but has been shaped through a long process of learning, training, research and critical thinking," he said when launching the event at the Ahmad Nisfu Theatre, ASTIF recently.

He was represented by UMS deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and International) Professor Datuk Dr Rossita Shapawi.

Kasim said that art is not merely a medium for entertainment or a space for expressing emotions, but rather a language that reflects the identity, values and thinking of a society.

"Art teaches people to look deeper than what is visible, to listen beyond what is spoken, and to understand life through a broader humanitarian perspective," he said.



Rossita (right) signs the banner as a symbolic gesture to officiate the event.

He added that a nation is remembered not only through its physical development or economic strength, but also through the artistic and cultural works it passes on to future generation.

Meanwhile, ASTIF dean Assoc Prof Dr Zairul Anwar Md Dawam said that the launch of the Theatre with Dance programme reflected the academy's efforts to provide a learning environment that is more open, dynamic and relevant to developments in the performing arts today.

"This programme was introduced through improvements to the academic structure in order to strengthen the focus of studies in theatre and dance, while also meeting educational quality standards and the requirements set by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

"This initiative aims to ensure a clearer academic focus, deeper expertise development and a more meaningful learning experience for students," he said.

Zairul added that through the integration of theatre and dance, students are trained not only in performance skills, but are also nurtured in terms of emotional awareness, discipline, self-confidence and the courage to express their ideas.



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SUMMARIES

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