



14 SEP, 2026

Literary awards night in KK lauds achievements of 24 writers

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



Ramlee seen at the awards ceremony.

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KOTA KINABALU: The Malam Anugerah Pena Kinabalu (MAPENA) 2026 highlighted 24 writers recognised for their contributions across various literary genres.

Held recently at The Pacific Sutera Hotel here, the awards night honoured writers whose works had contributed to the development of literature in Sabah, while reflecting the state's identity, culture and the experiences of its people.

Sabah Head of State Tun Musa Aman and wife Toh Puan Faridah Tussin were the guests-of-honour at the event, which also hosted Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) deputy director-general for policy Mohd Salahuddin Mohamed, who represented DBP director-general Datuk Dr Hazami Jahari.

The highlight of the evening was the naming of Datuk Jamdin Buyong as the Fifth Sabah Laureate, the highest recognition accorded to a literary figure for immense contribution to the

development of literature in the state.

Jamdin received RM30,000, a certificate of recognition and publishing facilities for his works.

Another MAPENA 2026 honouree was Sabah interior writer Ramlee Jalimin Jainin, better known by his pen name 'TINTA DEWATA'.

A native of Kampung Bayangan in Keningau, he is a retired teacher and a graduate in Educational Administration and Legal Management from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

He also holds a Master of Science in Management from Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNITAR).

The recognition marked another milestone in Ramlee's long journey as a writer and reflected his commitment to highlighting the voices, perspectives and realities of Sabah communities through his creative works.



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SUMMARIES

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