



16 SEP, 2026

Book fair to elevate KK's image

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia



Kasim (third left) presents a souvenir to Musa.

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KOTA KINABALU: More than 100 exhibitors from Malaysia and abroad are expected to participate in the Kota Kinabalu International Book Fair (PBAKK) 2026, which will be held at the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC) from Sept 23 to 27.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur said participants are expected from Sabah, Sarawak, the Federal Territory of Labuan, Kalimantan, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Indonesia and several other countries.

He said the fair is jointly organised by UMS, the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), Sabah State Library and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP).

"In addition to the book fair, several book launches will be held, and we are proposing the introduction of the Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sabah Best Book Awards, which will recognise the Best Author, Best Borneo Book and Best Book Publisher," he said.

Kasim said UMS aims to position the fair as a platform to showcase books on Borneo, particularly in the fields of social sciences and science, while promoting knowledge among communities across the island.

The book fair also supports Kota Kinabalu City Hall's (DBKK) efforts to have

Kota Kinabalu recognised as a City of Literature, while promoting publications related to Borneo across various fields of knowledge to the regional community.

"One of the criteria for a city to be recognised as a City of Literature is the organisation of large-scale book exhibitions," he said.

The organisers are targeting more than 150,000 visitors over the five-day event, including primary and secondary school students, university students and members of the public.

Visitors can look forward to special book discounts as well as exhibitions on STEM, culture, heritage, language and local publishing.

"The fair is intended to give the public access to the latest and best publications while cultivating a stronger reading culture among students and the wider community," Kasim said.

More than 50 activities have been lined up throughout the fair, including colouring competitions, storytelling sessions, forums, seminars, book talks and educational programmes organised by UMS, Sabah State Library, DBP and the Sabah Education Department.

The public is invited to attend the event, which will be open daily from 9.30am to 10pm at SICC.



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SUMMARIES

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