‘Till’ Documents UMS Experience In Developing Sabah Ecosystem-Based Living Lab

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Universiti Malaysia Sabah fb

KOTA KINABALU, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- The book *The Transformative Integrated Living Lab (TILL): From Philosophy to Practice* offers an opportunity for people from outside Sabah to gain a closer understanding of the state, particularly its rich biodiversity, local knowledge and efforts to improve the socioeconomic well-being of communities.

Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Sabah and Sarawak) Datuk Mustapha Sakmud said the book, published by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), highlighted the Living Lab concept as a model that could be emulated by other universities, while also having the potential to be expanded to other states and at the international level.

“Through this book, people from outside Sabah, in particular, can gain a better understanding of the state as its contents highlight Sabah’s rich biodiversity, as well as how research findings are channelled to communities to improve their living standards and help them generate income,” he said.

He said this to reporters after launching the book at the Sabah International Convention Centre here today.

Also present were UMS vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor and deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Innovation), who is also the book’s author, Prof Dr Rosalam Sarbatly.

Mustapha said the approach highlighted in the book also took into account Sabah’s local knowledge, which has its own unique characteristics and may not necessarily be found elsewhere.

The book’s content could also serve as a reference for academics and students, particularly in understanding the methods and approaches adopted by UMS in the Sabah context.

“This is our model in Sabah. There is local knowledge that is not found elsewhere. The book was also written by our own lecturers who are from Sabah and understand the uniqueness of its local knowledge,” he said.

He added that such documentation was important to ensure that the experiences and methods developed in Sabah could be learned from and shared with the wider academic community.

Meanwhile, Rosalam said the book was written based on his experience beginning in 2022, including efforts to understand the need to develop a Living Lab framework suited to the Malaysian and Sabah contexts.

Citing the Living Lab approach developed in Europe as an example, he said it could not be directly applied in Sabah as local conditions required an approach that took into account the relationship between the environment, society and the economy.

“Sabah is actually a complete ecosystem where learning should take place here. When we do something in Sabah, it can become a solution to problems across the region because our environment, society and economy are interconnected,” he said.

Rosalam said the book also explained that Living Lab should not be technology-oriented alone, but should instead focus on addressing real-world problems as well as the needs of local communities and ecosystems.

-- BERNAMA