

Choosing best site for new Sabah Museum

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Dr Andi with Aldofus Lester checking out traditional daggers at the exhibition after the launch of Borneo Lab 2026.

KOTA KINABALU: The State Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment is assessing several potential locations in Kota Kinabalu for the proposed new Sabah State Museum.

Its Assistant Minister, Dr Andi Md Shamsureezal bin Mohd Sainal, said the site selection process required careful consideration of environmental conditions to ensure the new facility meets stringent conservation requirements for the State's historical artefacts and documents.

"All the shortlisted locations are within Kota Kinabalu, and the new site must meet specific criteria, as historical artefacts are highly sensitive to environmental conditions such as air quality and humidity," he said.

Speaking to reporters here after the launch of the Borneo Lab 2026 programme, Dr Andi said maintenance and repair works at the existing Sabah State Museum would continue as planned while the ministry considers whether the 42-year-old landmark should be preserved, upgraded or demolished.

"Discussions are still at an early stage following the recent approval for the new State Museum," he said, adding that the ministry would study the options in greater detail.

Meanwhile, State Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Jafry Ariffin, in a speech delivered by Dr Andi, highlighted the evolving role of modern museums as dynamic platforms for curiosity and learning.

"Borneo Lab demonstrates that the role of a museum extends far beyond a space filled with artefacts, historical materials and heritage collections," Jafry said, adding that Sabah's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage provided vast opportunities to integrate science and innovation into society.

"The programme is capable of bringing knowledge closer to the community through accessible and engaging experiences," he added.

Jafry also expressed hope that the hands-on experiences offered at the event would inspire young Sabahans to pursue careers in science, research and technology, emphasising that early curiosity is essential for future innovation.

He commended the multi-agency collaboration behind the programme, crediting strategic partnerships with the National Science Centre, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Sabah Parks, the Sabah Wildlife Department and various State ministries for helping deliver a comprehensive learning platform for the public.

Also attending the programme was Sabah State Museum Director Aldofus Lester John Milip.