

UMS Christmas Festival held outside campus

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By Nancy Lai

KOTA KINABALU: Organisers of the annual Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Christmas Festival were reminded to make early booking of the venue for the event so that it can be held on campus.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau said he was made to understand that the Christmas Festival could not be held on campus grounds this year due to technical problems.

"I urge the organizing committee to book the venue early next year to avoid any more technical problems which would prevent them from holding the festival on campus," he said when launching the UMS' fourth Christmas Festival at the Glory Christian Centre in Damai here on Sunday night.

Tangau, in his speech, said he had been a guest at the annual festival since it was first organized four years ago and held at the grand ballroom in 1Borneo.

"I was also with you all at the second edition which was also held in 1Borneo. During both years, the hope expressed was the same, that the festival be held on campus.

"In the third year, the hope was granted and it was held at the Chancellory Hall with the Minister of Special Tasks, Datuk Teo Chee Kang, as the guest of honour. This year, I was made to understand that due to some technical problems, the



Tangau (left) presenting the donation to Richard. Tangau reminded the organisers of the UMS Christmas Festival to book the venue early to avoid having to hold the event outside the campus due to technical problems.

Christmas festival could not be held on campus," he said.

It is therefore important that the organizing committee make early arrangements next year so that the festival will be held on campus grounds, he added.

Tangau also advised all those present at the festival to instill in themselves the spirit of understanding others as this will lead to mutual respect among everyone.

Adopt the approach of 'seeking to understand others and not seeking to be understood by others' as this can promote and strengthen unity, he stressed.

According to Tangau, unity is something very important to the federal government and his ministry welcomes innovation on how to strengthen unity among

the people.

"My ministry looks at innovation not only of products, but also on approaches in many matters, including strengthening harmony of the people. It is my hope that UMS can play a part in this and make it the university's culture," he said.

During the event, Tangau, on behalf of the festival's organizing committee, also presented a donation to the Persatuan Malim Gunung Kinabalu which was received by its chairman, Richard Soibi.

Also present at the event were UMS deputy vice chancellor of alumni and student affairs, Professor Dr Ismail Ali, Sabah Council of Churches representative and Tangau's wife, Datin Dr Jainah Sintian.