

Learn from Kundasang, city folks urged

NST 4.8.2016 2

KOTA KINABALU: City folks should take a leaf out of Kundasang's book and keep their own surroundings clean and free from litter, said Minister of Tourism, Culture & Environment Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

"Kundasang has shown the way forward when it comes to cleanliness, with each resident playing their part to keep their environment clean and beautiful," he said.

Meeting reporters on Wednesday after launching the UMS-EcoCampus Visitor Information Centre (UMS-EVIC), Masidi said he witnessed the transformation

of Kundasang into a beautiful town after its residents united and stepped forward to keep their environment clean.

"It comes to a point that the people of Kundasang have developed their own awareness for cleanliness and even cautioned locals as well as visitors against littering indiscriminately in their town," he said.

Among those who attended the launching of the centre included Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah and Associate Professor Dr Justin Sentian, director of the EcoCampus Management Centre.

Underlining the importance

of changing public attitude towards cleanliness, Masidi said the triumph of Kundasang folks in overcoming the town's littering problem should be emulated by residents in Kota Kinabalu, Sembulan and other places in the State who are struggling with such problems.

"The case study at Kundasang shows that winning the war against littering is possible," he said and acknowledged that Sabah faced a daunting task in dealing with indiscriminate waste disposal which puts a strain on the environment and has become a major eyesore for tourists who have made their complaints to

the ministry.

Masidi lamented there is no point on talking about the beauty of Sabah when the surroundings remain dirty and polluted with garbage.

He suggested that people should emulate the Japanese who carry their own trash before disposing it properly in rubbish bins.

"If Sabahans truly take pride in and love their State, they can start by changing their attitudes towards hygiene by taking greater responsibility in keeping their towns, neighbourhoods, streets and environment clean," he said. — By Mohd Izham B Hashim



Masidi (third right) speaking to reporters