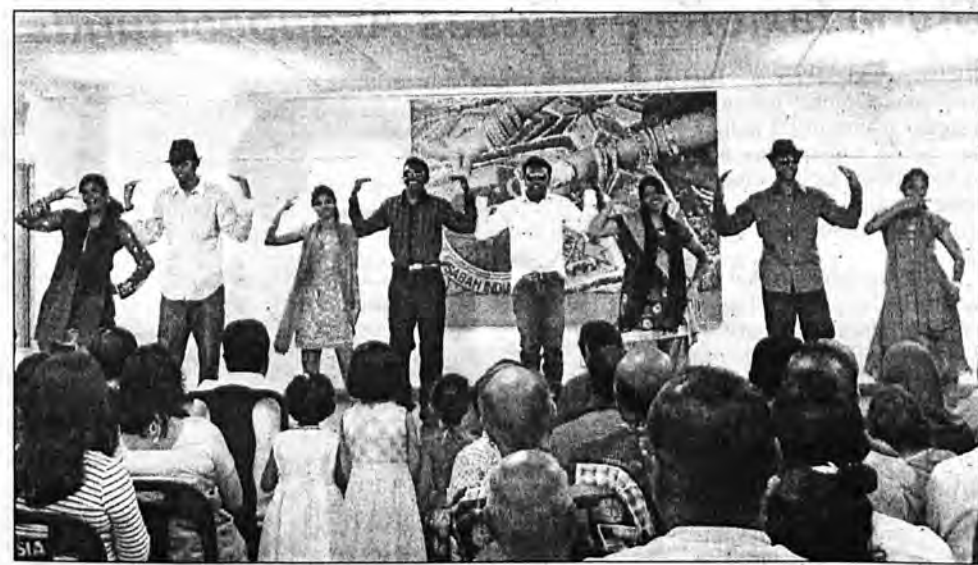


(From left to right) Datuk V. Jothi, chairman of Sabah MIC, Amaladoss, Edward and Datuk Dr. Madhavan, president of Hindu Sangam Association of Sabah light up a lamp to mark the opening ceremony of Malam Muhibbah.



UMS students put up an entertaining show for the crowd.

Sabah Indians celebrate a night of goodwill

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KOTA KINABALU: Tiny oil lamps decked the porch making the colourful traditional Indian costumes dazzle even more while peals of laughter rang through the Sabah Indian Association (SIA) Malam Muhibbah last Sunday evening.

The night started with a graceful bharatnatyam performance by a student of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Then a group of eight girls danced the dandiya, moving nimbly with sticks in their hands. An ensemble of eight

performances entertained the audience for the evening.

According to Andrew Amaladoss, president of SIA, Malam Muhibbah takes place twice a year and is essentially a cultural programme.

Apart from the Malam Muhibbah, the association organises other events such as medical camps and motivational talks. SIA also organised a Family Day and New Year celebration earlier this year.

Previously, Indian performers from the peninsula were invited to perform and entertain the local Indian community here during cultural programmes such as last Satur-

day's.

However, in recent years more and more locals together with their children and students from UMS have started performing at these functions.

Amaladoss also urged more Indians from the local community to join the association as their number is still small at the moment.

He said more manpower is needed to ensure and enhance the continuity of the association.

Guest of honour at the event, Datuk Edward Yong Oui Fah, Assistant Minister of Local Government and Housing stated that since Vision 2020 is

drawing near, all races should work together towards achieving it and also make this country into a fully developed nation.

The local Indian community is proud that Deepavali has been declared a public holiday in Sabah since the 1990s.

It is still not a public holiday in Sarawak despite the urges and pleas of many.

The SIA is one of few associations in Sabah to have its own building. It was established in 1947 during the time of the British North Borneo Chartered Company to look after the welfare and well-being of Indians in the state who had been brought from India.



Young dancers perform the dandiya.