

Malanjum: Set up indigenous law studies in UMS

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By DK RYNI QAREENA

KOTA KINABALU: Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Tan Sri Richard Malanjum has proposed Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to set up an indigenous law studies programme for culture and identity preservation.

Suggesting the studies programme to kick-start as basic as certificate level, he assured that he would be the first to lend a hand by conducting lectures among others if such program is to be introduced.

"If there could be a kind of certificate or diploma in indigenous law studies started

by UMS under the school of humanities, perhaps, that would be wonderful.

"I promise you I will be the first one in line to help out, give lectures and also please consider that," he said before launching the 7th International Conference of Law and Society programme here yesterday.

According to him, materials have been collected and are being documented from the result of three meetings with indigenous leaders, with hopes that workshops on the matter could be conducted within a year or so.

The call was made following the pattern among young

generations who seemed to care less about their culture and ancestry, as they are immersed with the current world of technology.

"Our biggest fear is the young generation. They seem to have forgotten their ancestry, literally; they need to know their ancestors to be able to move forward."

He stressed the importance of being attached to one's cultures because once these are lost, human beings would lose their identity.

Despite being offered as a subject in a number of local universities in Peninsula, the indigenous law programme in



MEMENTO ... Zaleha (3rd left) presenting a memento to Richard (3rd right) during the launching ceremony as Kamarudin (2nd left) and Zaki (2nd right) look on.

Sabah and Sarawak should go deeper, said Richard, as those taught were only the tip of the iceberg.

He shared his feeling of ignorance during a talk with local communities who taught him of the real meaning of life as well as sustainable developments.

"That is the lesson that I

could draw from the discussion and those should be preserved because one day we could use that."

Meanwhile, UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk D Kamarudin D Mudin earlier in his speech stated that the absence of law studies programme in Sabah was an issue that needs to be looked into.

However, there has been no confirmation just yet on whether such programme would be formed in UMS.

Also present were Chairman of the UMS Board of Directors Tun Dato' Seri Zaki Tun Azmi and Rector of International Islamic University Malaysia Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Zaleha Kamaruddin.