

Call for UMS to offer indigenous law studies

BP 12.4.2018 2
By Neil Brian Joseph

KOTA KINABALU: Chief Justice of Sabah and Sarawak Tan Sri Richard Malanjum has called on Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to consider setting up a programme on indigenous laws.

The suggestion was made in line with the need to address the dilemma over indigenous laws in the country as well as the cultural ignorance among youngsters.

"There was a mention of the setting up of a law faculty in UMS. I would like to make one small suggestion, if I may. We have a big problem in indigenous laws, (both) in Sabah and Sarawak.

"I know that it (the topic of indigenous laws) has been a subject in some of the local universities in Peninsular Malaysia. But, that is only the tip of the iceberg," Malanjum said in his officiating speech at the Seventh International Conference

on Law and Society (ICLAS 7) at Chancellor Hall, UMS yesterday.

"If there only there could be a kind of certificate of diploma in indigenous law studies, (which) can be started by UMS under the School of Humanities, possibly. That would be wonderful.

"I promise you that I would be the first one in line to help out, to give lectures and all that. So please consider that," he suggested, adding that he had started collecting materials from all over the state.

Malanjum further disclosed that he had conducted three meetings with the local indigenous leaders, all of which would be documented.

"Hopefully, in a year or so we can get it fully done and that we can conduct workshops and so forth," Malanjum said.

Malanjum stressed that the people's biggest fear lies in the mentality of the younger

generation.

"They (the young people) seemed to have forgotten their ancestors, literally. They need to know their ancestries to be able to move forward," Malanjum said, stressing that the youngsters must be attached to their culture and identity.

"Once those (cultural identity) are lost, you have no more identity," he added, while further reiterating his hope that UMS would consider his suggestion.

Meanwhile, UMS vice-chancellor Prof Dr Kamaruddin D Mudin said that the unavailability of law programmes in Sabah is something that should be looked into. However, nothing has been confirmed as of yet.

Also present in the event were International Islamic University (IIUM) Rector Prof Datuk Seri Dr Zaleha Kamaruddin and UMS Board of Directors chairman Tun Zaki Tun Azmi.



Malanjum (seated, fourth left) with Zaki (third left), Kamaruddin (second left), Zaleha (third right) and the participants of the ICLAS 7.