

Proposal to recognise fort as national heritage site

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KENINGAU: The proposal on the recognition of the Silar Pinikit Fort in Salangit Rundum, Kemabong as a national historical heritage site will be forwarded to the relevant authorities, said Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister Datuk Ellron Angin.

It was proposed by the Ontoros Antenom Descendants' Family Association (Pusaka).

"The fort was one of the sites where Murut warrior Datuk Seri Panglima Ontoros Antenom fought against colonial powers to defend the rights of the Muruts who were forced to become labourers during that period," he said when launching the book titled DSP Ontoros Antenom Pahlawan Terbilang Bangsa Murut, here, Tuesday.

"It is important to give the national historical heritage site recognition to the fort for the benefit of future generations, apart from conserving the site.

"Once recognised, it would attract more tourists to visit Sabah and will further boost the State's tourism sector."

Meanwhile, Sabah Museum Director Mansur Asun said the museum would



Ellron (left) launching the book.

visit the site and do a study.

"Each proposed site must have historical element to be recognised as a heritage according to the existing law," he said.

"Apart from that, the Museum will also visit the old railway station in Melalap, Tenom and the Lumuyu carved stone at Kampung Bakuku, Ulu Tomani, Kemabong which were also proposed as national historical heritage sites."

On the book, the descendants of An-

tenom welcomed it as the struggle of the warrior would be made known to other communities.

Marutin Ansiung, one of the descendants, said the book will tell more about the history of Antenom's struggles which were less known by the public, including his own descendants.

The book was published by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) senior lecturer Dr Dayu Sansalu with the cooperation of Pusaka.