



Amirulnizam (left) and Shaiful receiving a total of RM74,627 in scholarship fund to do more studies and research on the Bajau community in Sabah.

## UMS students receive scholarship to conduct research on Bajau community

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By Mariah Doksil

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Tun Said Keruak Scholarship Fund yesterday awarded a total of RM74,627 to two Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students to allow more studies and research on the Bajau community in the state.

Sabah State Assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Tun Said who handed over the scholarship to Amirulnizam Jamaludin, 25, and Shaiful Huzairi Mohd Kahil, 26, said as the second largest aboriginal ethnic in Sabah, the Bajau community should be seen as an important subject to be researched because of their unique culture.

"There are not many reference materials on the Bajau community and people are looking at this community with a limited perspective.

"That is why Tun Said Keruak Scholarship is focusing on more research to be done. I will be meeting with the Tun Said relatives to raise more funds for this scholarship and also request from the state and federal governments to assist in term of finance," he said at the handing over ceremony at UMS Chancellor Building here yesterday.

Semporna-born Shaiful Huzairi who received RM42,526, said he would be doing a six-chapter research on the involvement of Bajau leaders in the political landscape in Sabah.

"I am currently on the second chapter of this research, and this scholarship will allow me to do more findings on the

involvement of Bajau leaders in Sabah politics.

"Among political figures which will be my focus in this research are Tun Mohd Said Keruak, Tun Sakaran bin Dandai and Datuk Seri Panglima Salleh Said. This research would also include the involvement of the Bajau community in state development from 1963 to 1990," he said.

Meanwhile, Amirulnizam from Selangor who is currently on his second of seven-chapter research, said the Bajaus had very interesting motifs and had been translated into various cultural items.

"My research is focused on cultural items and decorations and its connection with the Kota Belud Bajau lifestyle. I will include the Bajau traditional parang, pony decorations and also traditional costumes.

"This research is expected to be completed by next year before my final semester," he said after the handing over ceremony.

Amirulnizam received RMRM32,101 for his research.

Also present at the event yesterday was UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

Harun requested Tun Said Keruak Scholarship to increase the scholarship to give more opportunities to students in the university to do research.

"I hope this scholarship will allow recipients to produce more journals of the Bajau community.

"I am also challenging these students to produce high quality articles to ensure every sen spent for the research will show fruitful results," he said.