

Two UMS students win award for research on ethnic Bajau in Sabah

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KOTA KINABALU: Two students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) who have been awarded the Tun Said Keruak Scholarship are conducting a research project relating to ethnic Bajau in Sabah.

The duo received the scholarship from Datuk Seri Salleh Tun Said Keruak at the handing over ceremony at UMS here, yesterday.

One of the recipients, Amirulnizam Jamaluddin, 25, from Art Education School UMS was grateful to receive a total

of RM 32, 101 for the expenses to complete his thesis.

Expected to complete the study early next year, his thesis entitled The Variety of Decorations in Cultural Objects in relation to Bajau's life in Kota Belud was inspired by his first visit to Kota Belud in 2008.

"I went to Kota Belud market and saw a Bajau warrior riding a horse complete with his machete and traditional costume.

"I am from Peninsular Malaysia and I have never seen this before so I decided to explore and learn more about it," said Amirulnizam from Sabak Bernam, Selangor.

When asked about the challenges he faced in completing the thesis, he said that the communication barrier with the locals in Kota Belud would be the issue.

"I will bring a Bajau friend from Kota Kinabalu to assist me as an initiative to overcome the challenge I face in terms of communication between the villagers there," he added.

The second beneficiary, Shaiful Huzairi Mohd Kahil, 26, from Semporna has chosen Bajau leaders in Malaysia as the main scope for his study.

"I collect the study data from archives, Semporna mu-