

# Creative Writing Studies course at UMS proposed

BP 23-5-2013 AS

**TAWAU:** Assistant Resource Development and Information Technology Minister Datuk Hamisa Samat proposed that a Creative Writing Studies course be introduced at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) so as to produce more credible writers in the country.

She said such need was due to the writers' significant contribution to the nation's development, especially in Sabah.

According to Hamisa, UMS should collaborate with Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) for a diploma-level creative writing course in the university.

She added that Sabah's richness of natural resources and historical facts needed to be documented in writing for the future generation.

"Sabah is so fortunate to be blessed with flora and fauna beauty, with her remarkable islands and mountains, as well as the diverse cultural heritage she possesses, that all need to be promoted and well documented through creative writing."

Hamisa was speaking at the official launching of the General Book Competition History Category 2013, at Promenade Hotel Tawau yesterday. Also present was director of DBP Sabah, Jamaluddin Mohd Sulong.

The Tanjung Batu assemblywoman said in the past, Sabah had a long list of creative writers who had contributed to the state's literature sector, a legacy that needed to be continued for a challenging era ahead.

"Writers had made some significant contribution to the state's development as their criticism and opinions towards government policies had been taken as constructive and positive, and anything constructive is always welcomed," she said.

Hamisa added that in ensuring continuous development in Sabah, the Barisan Nasional government would continue to give due attention to all sectors, including the writers so that they would not be sidelined in the nation's development plans.

"It has always been the government's wish to improve and develop Sabah's economy, public infrastructures, the people's quality of life and to upgrade our education sector to be on par with international standards, and that our culture and tradition be preserved, as well as our environment be developed sustainably.

"But at the same time, we also realize the importance of preserving our culture and history as treasures and world class heritage. Therefore, we need more academic publications, especially historical books, and our writers' works also need to be translated to English, Mandarin, French and other languages," she said.

Preservation of historical writings, she added, was also important for the future generation so as not to be too engrossed in scientific and technology developments.



Hamisa receiving a souvenir from Jamaluddin.