

Make Sabah centre of excellence for filming, Masidi urges UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun has suggested Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) reconsider the proposal to make it a centre of excellence for filming in Sabah.

He said the state is still lacking even the basic filming facilities, which makes it difficult to produce films or TV products even though Sabah has a lot of talents in the industry.

"We are also lacking in technical expertise, which is another major obstacle in producing good quality films. Perhaps, the proposal is something UMS could reconsider," he said.

He said this when asked if the ministry would consider emulating European Union in organizing EU Film Festival to help promote new talents and non-mainstream films.

Meanwhile, Masidi said foreign consulate offices in Kuala Lumpur have welcomed the State Government's initiative to brief them on security in Sabah following the murder-kidnap case in Pom Pom Island, Semporna last month.

He said the briefing given by his ministry to foreign ambassadors last week also involved the police and the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM).

"They were happy with the briefing and I would also like to call for cooperation from all parties in the event a similar incident like Pom Pom Island happens again to ensure that the latest information could be channelled immediately to the foreign diplomats in Kuala Lumpur

"This is to allow them to make informed decision in carrying out responsive measures," he told reporters when met after representing Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman to officiate at the "Maritime Sectoral Development in Sabah Shipping Industry: Oil and Gas and Maritime Security" seminar here yesterday.