

UMS has not done enough for language – MP

By Johan Aziz

KENINGAU: A member of parliament warned that the Kadazandusun language will disappear from the earth 50 years from now if children are not taught to speak the language.

Datuk Dr Marcus Mojigoh said educational institutions should take steps to ensure the survival of indigenous language.

"What is disappointing is that Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is not doing enough in maintaining the Kadazandusun language despite the existence of a special chair set up solely for the purpose," said the Upko treasurer-general.

He said educational institutions, particularly universities, play an

important role in ensuring the continuity of the local ethnic dialects such as Kadazandusun, but UMS only emphasizes on music and anthropology.

"I can assure you that the person sitting on the Kadazandusun chair in UMS is only interested in finding the cemetery of (Paduka) Mat Salleh, or how to make Bungkau (a traditional musical instrument)," he said when speaking to more than 40 teachers and facilitators in Kadazandusun subject during the closing of "Om Kopoimaganan KDP Koponutuban Kadazandusun Boros 6m" course at a hotel here yesterday.

Also present at the event were Tenom member of parliament Datuk Raime Unggi, Keningau Teachers

Training Institute (IPG) director Penny Lim and coordinator of ethnic and natural language, Saharuddin Said.

Mojigoh said the six-week course held at the IPG Keningau from June 20 to July 29 this year was a critical effort in preserving the language.

"Not only the first course ever held in Keningau is a milestone for the survival of the language, but it is also an achievement for us all in an effort to preserve the language," he said.

Mojigoh later presented certificates to the 30 participants, comprising teachers for the Kadazandusun language subject from all the primary and secondary schools throughout the state.



Mojigoh (left) presents a certificate to one of the participants.