



Musa visiting a book booth after the launching ceremony. — Pic by Rayner Majantim.

Musa suggests way to make people read

Hayati Dzulkifli OE 3.12.14 1

KOTA KINABALU: Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman on Tuesday called for more non-academic books related to society to be written and published to attract the public to gain knowledge.

In fact, he said these books are actually the best alternative to disseminate knowledge to the public as they would relate to their way of life and daily routines.

“Without us realising or not, writing books that have content outside the academic scope is among the effective ways to encourage people to read and love enhancing their knowledge,” he said, when launching “Déjà vu Cinta: Pencari Katarsis” by Dr Ramzah Dambul at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Tuesday.

He also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Malaysian Translation and Book Institute (ITBM) represented by its Managing Director Mohd Khair Ngadiron and UMS Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

The sealing of the MoU is proof of cooperation between ITBM and UMS to work together in producing a book entitled “Contemporary Sabah Issues” which will involve over 20 researchers from various fields in UMS.

Musa said there is no doubt that publication of academic books is also important as the main source of knowledge. However, the power to spread knowledge and disseminate academic information has its limits and boundaries as these books would only be read or

appreciated by certain groups.

In the context of Sabah, especially given the diversity of ethnic groups, culture and customs, Musa who is also UMS Pro-Chancellor, said the process of writing books that include community elements is more crucial.

“I was made to understand that ITBM and UMS had worked together to write and publish a book entitled ‘Series of Ethnic in Sabah’ with six volumes that focus on history, geo-demography and cultures of 16 ethnic groups in Sabah involving comprehensive research efforts on their diverse backgrounds.

“I was told that the project took almost five years which registered an important landmark in the history of documenting the indigenous people of Sabah as it involved the heritage of the State.

“I hope ITBM and UMS would be proactive in marketing the book so that it could be used in each school, higher learning institutions, libraries and as reading material for all,” he said.

On the signing, Musa said he also welcomed the initiative of producing the book entitled “Sabah Contemporary Issues”, which could help policymakers implement efforts and undertakings to enhance security matters, strengthening socio-economic activities, conservation of environment and preservation of culture heritage, among others.

Meanwhile, Khair said the upcoming publication of “Sabah Contemporary Issues” is a follow-up of a book entitled “Sabah Priority Issues: Setting the Course for Change” published in 2010.

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He said it would gather writings and research on various topics like security, socio-economic activities, preservation of culture and strengthening solidarity among the multiracial societies and religion. It would be originally produced in English but the work of 20 researchers headed by Dr Ramzah would be translated into Bahasa

Melayu.

According to Dr Harun, UMS will be the first higher learning institute in Sabah involved in the signing of a MoU on publishing books with ITBM which is the most productive agency in the country.

With such collaboration, he hoped UMS would go forward in highlighting relevant issues especially on Sabah.