



The book author Musli (centre) showing his book to Salleh (left) and Ainal during the launch.

## Bajausama dictionary finally out

Neil Chan DE 16.9.2017 2

KOTA KINABALU: The publication of the Bajausama Basic Dictionary is expected to have a positive impact on the language galleries of the nation which is made up of diverse ethnic groups, said Malaysian Multimedia and Communications Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak.

He said the publication of the dictionary by the Bajausama Languages and Culture Association represented a new page in history for the Bajausama people, adding they can now present their history, culture, tradition and language to the international community.

As the Advisor of the Language and Culture Association of Bajausama, Salleh said he had long followed the development of the dictionary which had taken many years to complete.

"After hundreds of years where the Bajau people have been using the Bajausama language orally, at the end of the day, the spelling system and the words were eventually successfully formed and adopted and recorded for reference."

He said the status of the language has thus risen to another level and the discipline of its use will be clearer and the value will be of greater quality.

"Through the publication of this dictionary, the Bajausama people will be

more recognisable, appreciated and respected," he said when launching the dictionary at Universiti Malaysia Sabah's Chancellor Hall, here, Friday.

He added the long-standing effort was very meaningful because apart from successfully repaying the trust of elders who wanted to see the Bajausama language be recorded down, the effort also would benefit the Bajausama generations to come.

Salleh said the reality was that the Bajausama language needed to be utilised from various aspects so that it not only exists in name but also used as a language of knowledge, so there is a need to learn it for the sake of continuity for the future generation.

He said the dictionary's publication would also offer greater opportunities for those who are interested to write about culture, historical background, short stories and religion about the Bajau people and extending their writing to the global level.

Salleh said those who were interested in poetry can also expand their skills by selecting suitable words through the dictionary.

Also present was Universiti Malaysia Sabah Vice Chancellor Prof Dr D. Kamaruddin D. Mudin and

Persatuan Bahasa & Budaya Sama Kota Belud President Chendramata Sinteh.