



A woman in Bajau traditional attire shows a copy of the Bajausama Language Basic Dictionary launched by Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). - Bernama photo

# First Bajausama dictionary

**KOTA KINABALU:** The first Bajausama dictionary has been published.

“For hundreds of years, the Bajau folks have used the Bajausama language orally, but now, the spelling and word systems had been successfully created, accepted for use and made into a book for reference,” said Communication and Multimedia Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak during the launch of the dictionary at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday.

“With the publication, the status of the language has catapulted to a new level and its usage discipline is now clearer,” he said.

He said that it was hoped the publication would provide a

positive impact to the language gallery in the country which had a multiracial society.

He added that the Bajausama folks could showcase their historical, cultural, traditional and lingual treasures to the international community. He also said that it took many years before the dictionary was published.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr D. Kamaruddin D. Mudin meanwhile said that he had instructed the Linguistic Unit of the university to give input into the aspect of the local languages, which he said included the Bajausama language.

He said that the unit had been instructed to work with the Native Associations to develop the language concerned.