



Seated from left: Mohamaddin, Shafie, Hashim and Aswara board members at the press conference.

Aswara Campus to be set up in Sabah

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By Chok Sim Yee

KOTA KINABALU: The National Arts, Culture and Heritage Academy (Aswara) is set to establish its first branch campus in Sabah, said Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi.

Mohamaddin said the setting up of a branch campus in the State was necessary given that the main campus in Kuala Lumpur was limited in terms of space.

"So I think it is high time to establish a campus here to allow students from Sabah and Sarawak, as well as from West Malaysia, to study at Aswara Sabah campus.

"This is also a way to enhance national integration in our country," he said at a press conference with Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Shafie Apdal after paying a courtesy call to the latter here yesterday.

Asked if Aswara would cooperate with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Mohamaddin explained said that Aswara was different from other universities in the sense that the academy was focused on arts, music and heritage culture.

Meanwhile, Shafie said he had instructed the State Secretary Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hashim Pajian to locate a suitable site for the Aswara campus in Sabah.

He said the campus would not only house the academy, but

would also provide students with accommodation.

"The establishment of an Aswara branch campus here will not only benefit students from Sabah, but also those from Brunei, Sarawak and Kalimantan. There is also potential for student exchange programmes," he said.

Shafie said Aswara was an important institution that enabled the younger generation to learn and appreciate the country's diverse cultures.

"I am confident this will also benefit and help in our effort to enhance tourism products in Malaysia, especially Sabah."

The Aswara main campus in Kuala Lumpur has about 1,200 students.