

# Reading culture vital for UMS citizens

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) citizens are encouraged to embrace reading as a means to generate creativity and innovative culture in the university.

Deputy vice chancellor of student affairs and alumni, Professor Madya Dr Haji Kassim Haji Mohd Mansur, who delivered the speech on behalf of the vice chancellor, said a reading culture has to be instilled among the people in line with the government's vision to create a knowledgeable and informative community by 2020.

"A knowledgeable society will produce creative works that enrich the people," he said when officiating at the Reading Culture Program at UMS library here yesterday.

Kassim further stressed the importance of libraries in generating a knowledgeable society, and urged UMS citizens to take part in the activities that its library organized.

Meanwhile, the head of librarian, Dg Rukiah Ag Amit, said the program started in February and will end in December this year.

The activities of the program include exhibitions, library bazaar, essay writing



Kassim (third right) tests his skills in colouring a batik when touring the exhibition booths in the library.

competition, information literacy workshop and outreach program.

"We hope that this program will instil reading culture in the university and ultimately generate people who are knowledgeable."

According to statistics from the National Library, most

Malaysians read around eight to 12 books last year compared to two annually three years ago.

The figure also reveals that there were 38 million visits to the library in 2008 compared to 21 million in 2007, which shows the spread of reading culture among the communities, she said.