

UMS unveils stairs adorned in Rungus motifs

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By MOHD IZHAM HASHIM

KOTA KINABALU: Adorned in Rungus-inspired motifs, the beautifully vibrant 'Pinakol' stairway is the newest attraction for visitors to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), thanks to the joint efforts of students and local artists.

The completed Pinakol stairway near the university's Vice Chancellor's Building was officiated yesterday by the Chairman of UMS Board of Directors, Datuk K.Y. Mustafa during the launching ceremony, accompanied by a choir performance by students from the Bakti Siswa PKPP.

All 138 steps were painted in colourful Pinakol-style patterns which drew inspiration from the mesmerizing arrangements of Rungus traditional beaded accessories. Pinakol beaded jewellery is part of Rungus cultural heritage involving the stringing and arrangement of multi-coloured beads, and consists of four main motifs: Vinusak (floral/girl), Tinuragang (lizard), Inompuling (weapon) and Tininguling (human).

The launching marks a starting point for young talent in UMS to display their creative talent and artistic expression, creating works of art that serve as new attractions for visitors and tourists at the Pinakol Steps.

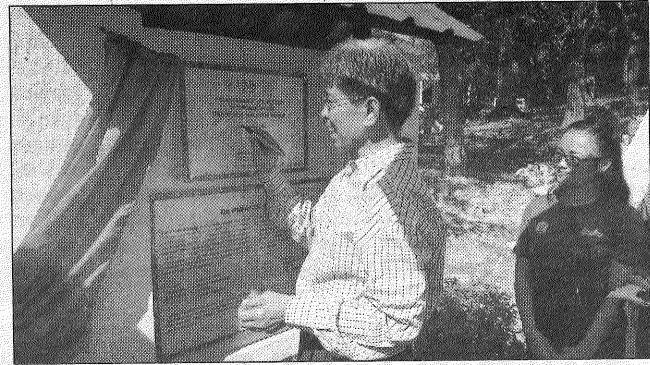
Under the sway of palm trees, the beautifully coloured steps adds a cultural touch to the scene in a creative art piece by four local artists and 102 students from the UMS Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage and Visual Technology Programme.

During the weekend programme, the launching ceremony was also enlivened by busking and dance performances, art and craft exhibition, batik and art demos, as well as food and beverages for visitors attending the function.

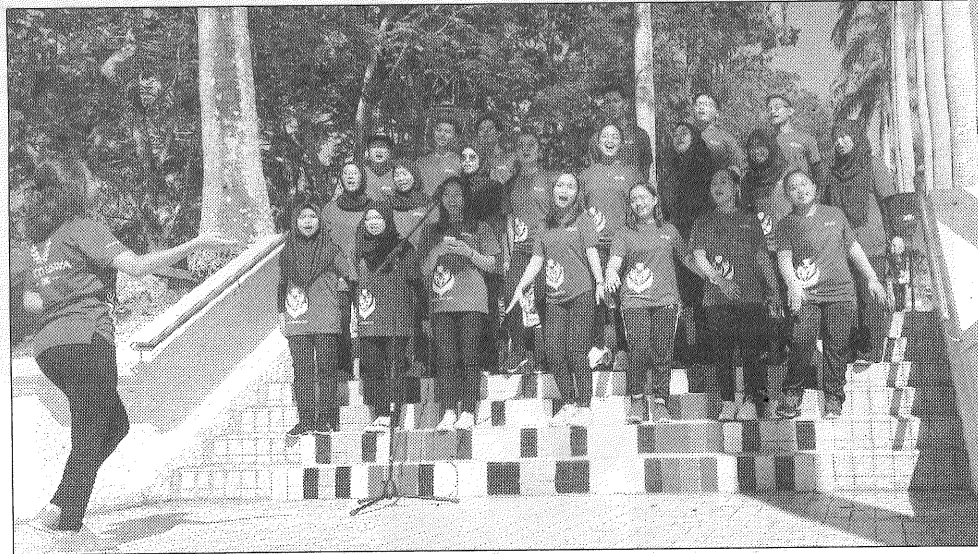
Among those in the delegation who attended the launching ceremony include

UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof Dr Ismail Ali; UMS Registrar, Vina Zahrani

Yusof; and Chief of the Department of Students Affairs, Kamsiah Husin, among others.



K.Y. Mustafa launching the Pinakol stairway yesterday at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).



The student's choir staging a spirited medley of "Proton Saga Kelabu" at the newly completed Pinakol stairway near the University's Vice Chancellor Building, after the launching ceremony.