

Seminar on gender and literacy in Sabah Thursday

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KOTA KINABALU: The Institute for Development Studies (Sabah), in partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), and in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is organising a seminar on "Gender and Literacy in Sabah: Eliminating the Gaps" in The Pacific Sutera, on Thursday.

Assistant Minister of Law and Native Affairs Jannie Lasimbang is the guest of honour.

Chief Executive Officer of IDS, Datuk Dr Johan Ariffin Abd. Samad said this seminar aims to tackle Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 which seeks to provide quality education, SDG 5 that promotes gender equality, and SDG 10 which purports to reduce inequalities.

"It is a widely known fact that disparity in gender is largely due to lack of access to education which ultimately affects level of literacy.

"Even though in Malaysia, youth literacy as well as adult literacy has significantly improved over the years, there are

still concerns on literacy in legal, social and cultural issues," said Dr Johan.

Johan elaborated that awareness of rights should also include literacy. Lack of knowledge or literacy in legal, social and cultural issues would ultimately lead to disparity in achievement between genders.

Therefore, he said, we need to find ways to eliminate or reduce these inequalities as this is crucial for Malaysia to achieve the status of a developed nation.

The seminar will start with a key panelist forum with a theme of Gender Mainstreaming.

The key panelists include Jannie, Tan Sri Simon Sipaun, Chairman of Institute for Development Studies (Sabah), Wolfgang Hruschka, Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office Malaysia and Dr Dayang Suria Mulia, Senior Lecturer of Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage, UMS. IDS CEO, Johan will be the moderator.