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Osu: Parochialism should be discarded

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KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. - Sabah Umno chief Datuk Osu Sukam has called on the people to discard parochialism and be receptive to changes to avoid being left out of the mainstream of national development.

"The people must adopt an open attitude towards change, and not isolate themselves.

"We must be prepared to accept changes to enhance our status so that we will become a respected community," he said when launching the New Straits Times photography exhibition on Umno's 50-year struggle. The five-day exhibition, held at Wisma Muis in Sembulan, is organised by the NST with Sabah Umno and Fujicolor. Poslaju National Courier is the official carrier.

About 100 photographs depicting Umno's struggle are displayed along with Lat's cartoons on Umno leaders.

The photographs, many of which have never been published before, were taken by NST photographers between 1946 and last year.

Sabah Umno also contributed over 100 photographs on its activities for the exhibition at Wisma Muis where Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched Sabah Umno on Feb 21, 1991.

Among those present were State Umno secretary Datuk Yahya Hussin, who is also the organising chairman, State party treasurer Datuk Musa Aman, NST group editor Datuk A. Kadir Jasin, Umno division and branch leaders.

Osu, who is also Land and Co-operative Development Minister, said the people of Sabah must not allow themselves to be influenced by racial sentiments.

Under the BN's politics of accommodation, equal treatment was given to all, irrespective of racial or religious backgrounds.

On the exhibition, Osu said it would help refresh the people's mind on Umno's contribution towards national unity and development.

"The exhibition will inculcate a renewed vigour among the people, especially the younger generation, to continuously contribute towards the development of the nation and race," he said.

Yahya said the exhibition would hold a great significance to the people, especially those photographs which featured events that had led to Umno's entry into Sabah in 1991.

"It is a good avenue for the people to better understand the struggles and sacrifices of past and present leaders," he said.

In his welcoming speech, Kadir thanked Sabah Umno, Poslaju National Courier and the other contributors for making the exhibition possible.

He said the NST held the first exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur last October during during the Umno general assembly.

Following requests by various State Umno leaders, the exhibition was turned into a roadshow and had covered all States in Peninsular Malaysia before its entry into Sabah.

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