

**Sabah Government Approves An Additional Allocation Of RM250,000 To KDCA
Bernama
30 May, 2013**

PENAMPANG, May 30 (Bernama) -- The Sabah government has approved an additional allocation of RM250,000 to the Kadazandusun Cultural Association (KDCA) for future Pesta Kaamatan or Padi Harvest Festivals.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman said he was prepared to increase the allocation as the celebration was very important and synonymous with the people of Sabah.

"I am happy at the prudent spending of the organising committee and I am prepared to increase the allocation to repair traditional houses and maintain musical equipment as requested by (Datuk Seri) Dr Maximus (Ongkili in his speech," he said when launching a traditional sports event in conjunction with the 2013 Kaamatan Festival.

He said the Kaamatan Festival, which is recognised as a national celebration, was the arena to continue to strengthen the spirit of unity and togetherness among the multi-community, multi-religious and multi-cultural people specifically in the state.

As such, he said, the organisation of the exhibition and traditional sports in conjunction with the Kaamatan Festival, clearly proved the commitment of all to continue upholding the uniqueness of the local tradition and heritage.

Also present were Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz; Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili, who is also the organising committee chairman of the celebration; Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin; Sabah State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Tun Said and Sabah Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun.

The celebration, held outside the compound of the Hongkod Koisaan, here, involved bringing forth the cultures of all the communities in the state through various arts events and traditional dances in a joyous and harmonious atmosphere.

Among the uniqueness in the Kaamatan Festival on the theme 'Maintain Solidarity and Understanding Through Kaamatan' was the merriment provided by the Bamboo Orchestra using traditional musical equipment such as 'Sompoton' (Mouth organ), 'Seruling Bambu' (Bamboo Flute), 'Kulintangan Bambu' (Gong ensembles), 'Bungkau' (Harp) and 'Drum Bambu' (Drum).

The climax of the celebration was Unduk Ngadau or Harvest Festival Beauty Queen Competition which is the main attraction each year.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=953112>