Norhardi Bin Saad

From: Jabatan Komunikasi Korporat
Sent: Monday, 22 April, 2024 4:11 PM
To: UUM - All Staff; UUM - All Students
Cc: Staf - Pesara UUM
Subject: UUM SERVES AS THE REPOSITORY FOR KENSIU ETHNIC THESIS



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Pictures by Hairul Nizam Zahari

UUM SERVES AS THE REPOSITORY FOR KENSIU ETHNIC THESIS



UUM ONLINE: BALING, 18 April – Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) serves as the repository for a research thesis focusing on the Kensiu Ethnic Indigenous People.

This aligns with the university's aspiration to become a global research reference centre where the Sultanah Bahiyah Library (PSB) will be responsible for managing the said manuscript.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr Mohd Foad Sakdan stated that UUM is honoured to be chosen by the indigenous people to house this thesis, as it has garnered the interest of many, who are eager to obtain access to it.



He mentioned that PSB successfully contacted and obtained permission from the responsible party to retrieve the material which was kept by the Village Head of the Kensiu Ethnic Indigenous People, Tok Batin Razali Kulim.

He explained that the research on Kensiu Ethnic Indigenous People was conducted by Professor Nagata from Osaka 40 years ago. He was a researcher studying different ethnic / tribal groups.



“At that time, he was a lecturer at the University of Toronto, Canada, and after conducting research in 1970s, Professor Nagata returned to Japan, and passed away in his 80s.

“Last December, Prof. Dr Nobuta Toshihiro, ans expert researcher at the National Museum of Anthropology Suika, Japan visited Kedah to present the research/ thesis on Kensiu Ethnic Indigenous People to Tok Batin Razali, who represents the Kensiu Indigenous People ethnic group,“ he said at the Kensiu Ethnic Group Thesis Handover Ceremony in Lubuk Legong.

Prof. Dr Mohd Foad emphasised the importance of preserving the linguistic heritage of the indigenous tribe, which, with only 322 speakers, faces the imminent threat of extinction.



He stated that UUM will collaborate with various institutions to document what Tok Batin proposed as a first step to help the indigenous people ensure their language is documented and preserved as heritage.

He expressed hope that the thesis stored in UUM PSB would pave the way for further studies on ethnicity, history, document analysis and new records, ensuring that its historical elements remain fresh and relevant, serving as reference for students, researchers, and the public visiting Sultanah Bahiyah Library.

Meanwhile, Tok Batin Razali said that the community of the Kensiu Ethnic Indigenous People is the sole settlement in the northern Kedah, specifically located in Baling.



According to him, records at the Baling District Office indicate that the Kensiu tribe began settling in this village in 1952, and now, there are 82 families residing here.

He expressed hope that UUM could assist in preserving the heritage of this ethnic group currently residing in this area.

The ceremony witnessed the handover of the thesis on Kensiu Ethnic Indigenous People to Prof. Dr Mohd Foad Sakdan by Tok Batin Razali.

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