Local authorities urged to make disabled-friendly premises

KOTA KINABALU: Local authorities in the state have been urged to make some of its public places accessible to persons with disabilities (PWD).

Malaysia International Islamic University Postgraduate Research and Development deputy dean Datuk Dr Asiah Abdul Rahim who made the call, also revealed that facilities in the city still needed improvement in PWD-friendly buildings.

"There are hotels with marked improvements in their buildings but they are not comprehensive. So far there are no PWD-friendly routes to connect the commercial buildings around town. Hotel building structures are not PWD-friendly, besides problems at hotel counters for not having officers who can speak sign language," she said.

Asiah who attended the "Bengkel Audit Akses Dalam Persekitaran Alam Bina Kota Kinabalu" that was graced by Mayor Datuk Abidin Madingkir at Pusat Pembelajaran Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu at Kingfisher Likas near here yesterday, said even offices in government departments have wooden doors which hampered persons with disabilities.

She suggested counter officers and receptionists to have special sign language training to ensure they were able to handle PWD customers.

Earlier in her speech, Asiah said public places such as museums, recreational parks, commercial buildings, pedestrian zones, public transport terminals and train stations were still not conducive for PWD.