Talk on ‘Language Use and Ethnic Identity of Adolescents’

KUCHING: A talk on ‘Language Use and Ethnic Identity of Adolescents’ will be held on April 23 from 2.15pm to 4.30pm at 360 Urban Resort Hotel Kuching here.

It is co-organised by Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak (YPS) and Sarawak Development Institute (SDI) in conjunction with the ‘March On for Unity’ programme.

The talk, one of the Unity Talk Series, aims to feature works related to unity, youth, cultural identity and heritage.

Dr Ting Su Hie, a senior lecturer at the Centre for Language Studies of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), would be delivering the talk on the research findings on the dominant language use in the lives of young Malaysians and their attitude towards their own and other ethnic groups.

Ting, who is also a SDI member, had in her research interviewed 1,000 respondents aged 13 to 18 years old from rural and urban regions of three cities in Sarawak.

Among the findings were that the respondents were found to be multilingual, speaking an average of 3.33 languages.

“Also, the use of Bahasa Malaysia exceeded English among the three main ethnic groups (Malay, Iban and Chinese), showing the success of the national policy on the use of Bahasa Malaysia as the medium of instruction in public schools,” said SDI in a press statement yesterday.

Ting’s research was conducted in January and February last year in Kuching, Miri, Sibu, Durin and Bario. The free talk is open to members of the public.

For registration, the public can contact Evelette Robin or Asha of SDI at 082-415484 or 082-416484.