Talk on ‘Language Use and Ethnic Identity’ on 23 April

BY NORNASHEILA ZAIDI

KUCHING: The Sarawak Unity Foundation and Sarawak Development Institute will jointly hold a talk themed ‘Language Use and Ethnic Identity of Adolescents’ at the Gunung Gading and Buda Room of 360 Urban Resort Hotel, here from 2.15pm to 4.30pm on 23 April.

The talk, organised under the foundation’s ‘March on for Unity’ calendar and as one of the activities of Sarawak Development Institute, will feature works related to unity, youth, cultural identity and heritage.

Senior Lecturer at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak’s (UNIMAS) Centre for Language Studies, Dr Ting Su Hie, will be delivering a talk on research findings on the dominant language use among young Malaysians and their attitudes towards their own mother tongues.

For her research, Ting had interviewed over 1,000 respondents, aged between 13 and 18, from both rural and urban areas of two cities and a town in Sarawak.

Among the findings is that the respondents were 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 success of the national policy on the use of Bahasa Malaysia as the medium of instruction in public schools.

The research was conducted in January and February 2011 in Kuching, Miri, Sibu, Durin and Bario.

The talk is open to members of the public who are interested to find out further about the language use and ethnic identity among young Sarawakians.

For registration, Evelette Robin or Asha of Sarawak Development Institute can be contacted at (082) 415 484 or (082) 416 484.