Talk to feature dominant language used by youths

KUCHING: A public talk on “Language use and ethnic identity of adolescents” will be held at 360 Urban Resort Hotel here next Monday.

Organised by Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak (YPS) and Sarawak Development Institute (SDI), it will kick off a series of Unity Talk under YPS’s “March on for unity” calendar of events and SDI’s activities for this year.

The series aim to feature works related to unity, youth, cultural identity and heritage.

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Centre for Language Studies senior lecturer Dr Ting Su Hie will deliver talk on the research findings on the dominant language used by young Malaysians and their attitude towards their own and other ethnic groups.

She had interviewed over 1,000 respondents, aged 13 to 18, in rural and urban areas of Miri, Sibu, Durin, Bario and here in January and February last year.

Among her findings were that the respondents were multilingual, speaking an average of 3.33 languages; and that the use of Bahasa Malaysia exceeded English among the Malays, Ibans and Chinese, showing the success of the national policy on the use of Bahasa Malaysia as the medium of instruction in public schools.

Admission is free. To register for the talk, call SDI at 082-415 484 or 416 484.