

By Anna Vivienne

**D**UE to the diversity of ethnic groups in Sabah, there are many and various folks' festivals being celebrated annually.

One such celebration is the Pesta Kobis or Cabbage festival, which will be held in Kundasang Ranau on Nov 15 this year.

The Pesta Kobis is held in this area, as this is the main producer of cabbage and other highland vegetables in Sabah.

Farmers who plant all sorts of vegetables besides cabbage take up most of Kundasang area. Other vegetables found in this area are cauliflower, carrots, capsicums, lettuce and peas among others.

During most morning, buyers from other areas in Sabah can be seen buying bulk vegetables to be resold elsewhere.

On Nov 15, however, there will be a bit of a change. People will congregate to celebrate a produce that is their main source of livelihood.

There will be exhibitions of local products and of course display of agricultural produce, which definitely



The Kadazandusun paramount leader Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan harvesting cabbage, a produce of Kundasang, during a Harvest Festival celebration.

# Events to look forward to



Bamboo dish

will include the veritable cabbage.

If the previous years are to be looked at, there will also be food, handicraft and beauty products being showcased by exhibitors.

While in Kundasang visitors can visit the War Memorial, which was built in remembrance of those who died during the one of Second World War's atrocity, the death march, which left thousands dead and six survivors.

By the way, Kundasang is about one and a half hour drive from Kota Kinabalu. The township is just after the Kinabalu National Park.

Meanwhile on Nov 26, music enthusiasts are invited to congregate at the Tun Hamdan Community Hall in Tamparuli.

During this time, a Bamboo festival will be held where orchestras and local musicians will showcase their talents with musical instruments made from Bamboo.

Such instruments include the sompoton, seruling, turali, gandang and tagunggu to name a few. These are traditional musical instruments, which are being promoted among the youth in Sabah, to ensure its perpetuation.

I believe there will also be an exhibition of the various products made from Bamboo.

Bamboo plays a significant role in the life of the people in the past. In fact Bamboo and the Kadazandusun's life in Sabah is intertwined.

This rather huge grass is actually used to make houses, then. The floors and walls of houses were made from split bamboo. The sago palm leaves that are used to thatch the houses of yore were sown on long sturdy bamboo sticks.

Even household utensils like spoons; ladles, drinking vessels, bowls and water containers were made from Bamboo. Baskets, cabinets and chicken coops were all



Bamboo musical instruments



More musical instrument

made from Bamboos.

In fact, a person whose land was thriving with bamboo plants was considered well off in the olden days. He did not have to part with his livestock to buy bamboo for his floor, walls and

other uses.

So on Nov 26, visitors are invited to visit Tamparuli to look at the uses of Bamboo and to hear musicians coaxing out the music from bamboo musical instrument.