

FROM FRONT PAGE

very much," he said.

On the show, he said that this showed the association's commitment and awareness on the need to preserve culture as a heritage.

He was and still is right.

Our cultural heritage should not be taken lightly and forgotten as soon as we turn our backs on the stage. Culture is not something you can safely put away in a closet, to take out when you need it. Culture, as the word implies is a way of life and should be lived everyday.

Tourism is therefore important in preserving culture. Against all arguments I believe that if we are interested in culture (folklores and legends), we will be further encouraged if we can show it off to tourists. And get paid for it, too. That may sound shallow, but if that can help preserve our culture...

Be that as it may, Semporna seems to have a colourful and beautiful dances and songs. Besides the annual Lepa Regatta, the stage performances, including singer Den Bisa's songs, are very attractive and should be shared with guests.



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# Hamin Lodge

**A**ccommodations in Kota Kinabalu went up by another 12 rooms with the official opening of the Hamin Lodge which is located at Kg Air Kota Kinabalu. The lodge with a new concept in budget boutique accommodation is fully owned and managed by Sabahans.

The Lodge has 12 Borneo styled rooms and is the first traditional cultural hotel in the city. Its deco and finishes consists mainly of natural materials such as bamboo furniture, natural wood, stones, local handicrafts and even comfortable mattresses made of natural coconut fibres or cotton.

Amongst its decorations are a collection of old photos of Village life in Sabah in the old days. It's superb location and budget price affordable to even backpackers and youth plus the homely and romantic ambience in Borneo style has enchanted its guests during their stay there.

Hamin Lodge charge fair and same price for both locals and tourists. Its guests are treated as part of the family as it is a "Hamin" or Home in the Kadazan language and thus the stay there will be more like being in a guesthouse or home stay.

They offer budget rooms, suites and family rooms as well as dorm stay.

Guests can join the free Hamin family membership and will get rebates for their spending at Hamin Lodge, Tribal café or Aroma Villa traditional therapy center, he says.

The lodge's facilities include fully air conditioned Borneo Deco rooms, Aroma Villa Traditional Therapy Spa, Tribal Café, Free Internet and a 24 hours reception. It also provides tour packages, tourist information, transport arrangement and sightseeing to places of interest in Sabah.

Its in-house activities for guests and Hamin Family members includes free cooking lessons, traditional dance lessons, traditional therapy and reflexology lessons and video shows promoting Sabah's cultures and interesting places in Sabah.

Guests will have easy access to Nightlife entertainment, the night market, handicraft market, wet market, the seafont esplanade with pubs, clubs, seafood and restaurants as they are all within short walking distance from the lodge. The newly upgraded and most popular "Seri Selera" cheap open air food stalls centre specializing in seafood is right at its footstep.

So if you want to stay in the city for a few days, check out Hamin.