



UMP publishes book on indigenous Semai tribe

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) officially launched its newly-published book entitled “Haknuk”, during the university’s Women Entrepreneurs Carnival at its Chancellery Square on June 16 last year.

Present to grace and officiate the double event was Her Royal Highness Tengku Puan Pahang Tengku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah Sultan Iskandar.

Haknuk was the product of UMP’s

strenuous efforts to record the historical and cultural backgrounds as well as the economic activities of the indigenous Semai tribe – found residing in Kampung Kuala Boh in Pahang’s world-renowned tea plantations and highland resort, Cameron Highlands – for communal references.

In her official address, Tengku Azizah boldly suggested that the derogatory-sounding term “Orang Asli”, be permanently changed to “Orang Kita”, whenever a reference to indigenous tribe is made orally

and verbally.

According to Her Royal Highness, the term “Orang Kita” sounded more pleasant and courteous, as compared with the perceivedly degrading term “Orang Asli”.

In support of Tengku Azizah’s call, the Kuala Boh’s Semai tribal chief, Nordin Abu Bakar, said the new term “Orang Kita” was more appropriate as it will better reflect the common roots of the indigenous tribe and the majority Malays in the country.