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*Allocated Time: 3 mins*

**INTERVENTION BY H.E. DATUK GINUN MATTANGAI  
PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING,  
SABAH STATE GOVERNMENT, AT THE  
10<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES (EMRIP)  
ITEM 8: INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW-UP TO THEMATIC STUDIES  
AND ADVICE ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WITH RESPECT TO  
THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HEALTH  
13 JULY 2017**

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Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes the discussion today on follow up to previous studies by the Expert Mechanism. Malaysia noted the Expert Mechanism's studies and advice on the rights of indigenous peoples on cultural heritage. We wish to contribute the Malaysian perspective on this matter by elaborating the example from the State of Sabah, Malaysia.

2. At the outset, we wish to reiterate that the Sabah State Government continues to uphold its commitment to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples under the Federal Constitution of Malaysia.
3. Multiple frameworks have been put in place, and targeted efforts have been done in this regard. These include the preservation of Native Law and Customs, Management of Native Land Ownership, and Active Engagement and Consultation with indigenous peoples on various issues related to culture, social and environment.
4. The Native Courts were established under the Native Courts Enactment 1992, while the Native Affairs Council and the Department of Native Affairs were established under the Sabah Enactment No. 13, to formulate and implement policies on the protection of native laws and customs.

5. Specific agencies undertakes efforts to collect, document and promote:

- a. Natives' traditional dances and arts ;
- b. Ethnic vocabulary and phrases – to preserve the languages of indigenous peoples and address the challenging issue of minority group languages extinction ; and
- c. Efforts to protect the intellectual property of natives' cultural products.

6. The Expert Mechanism concluded that the safeguard and development of indigenous peoples cultures - require the protection of their lands, territories and resources. My delegation wishes to highlight that the Government recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to their land as stated in the Sabah Land Ordinance (Cap 68) -- a commitment to indigenous people land ownership in improving their livelihood. So far, about 60,000 hectares have been issued titles and another 16,000 hectares have been gazetted as Community Forestry, benefiting 80,000 households.

7. The Government emphasizes the participation of indigenous peoples in the development of their lands, territories and resources. But it is also a duty to all in maintaining a sustainable environment – a legacy to future generations.

8. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate that we have done our level best in realising the rights of indigenous peoples in Sabah, and throughout the country. We also acknowledge, more needs to be done. Therefore, the government welcomes any suggestions and looks forward to a greater cooperation and partnership with all stakeholders.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

**GENEVA**  
**13 July 2017**