

Public invited to NTFP carnival at Kuching Waterfront

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Nyiok Merinau, 68, from Kapit shows her NTFP 'Burai Marek' during the launch of the carnival. — Photo by Chimon Upon

KUCHING: The people are invited to the Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Sarawak 2018 Carnival at the Kuching Waterfront here until Monday (Nov 26).

According to Sarawak Forest Department director Hamden Mohammad, a total of 40 booths have been lined up to exhibit and offer a rich variety of non-timber forest products

“The first edition of NTFP Sarawak was held in 2016 with participation limited only to the community within the Heart of Borneo (HoB).

“The second edition last year saw a little expansion with the participation of the community within the vicinity of HoB. This year, we have extended it further to include the community along the entire coastal areas of Sarawak,” he said at the launch of the carnival yesterday.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan represented Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg to open the carnival carrying the theme 'Building Partnership to Promote NTFP'.

Hamden said that representatives of government departments and agencies and the private sector from Indonesia are also taking part in the five-day event.

Among local government govts and agencies and private corporations participating in this year's carnival include Department of Agriculture Sarawak, Kraftangan Malaysia, Sarawak Biodiversity Centre, Sarawak Multimedia Authority, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd.

He believed that local industry players could promote and market their respective products during the carnival.

"These entrepreneurs can even market their products overseas such as Indonesia and Brunei."

Apart from the exhibition and sale of NTFP, Hamden said the carnival had also lined up several other programmes such as 'The Voice of NTFP 2018', 'NTFP Kid's Fashion Show Contest', 'NTFP Bernopeng Contest 2018', 'NTFP Musical Night 2018', 'NTFP Kid's Colouring Contest 2018', performance by Foressa Band, and lucky draw.

He also pledged that his department would continue to implement tree-planting programmes.

Hamden said more than 50,000 saplings of various species including 'gaharu' had been distributed among the local communities, local councils and corporate bodies.

He hoped that more people would give their support to NTFP throughout the carnival.