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Tajuk : Kejaman community produces first picture dictionary

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SIBU: The Kejaman community in Belaga District has produced its first Kejaman-Bahasa Malaysia-English picture dictionary.

Kota Kinabalu Polytechnic lecturer Jacquelyne Ekot co-authored the dictionary with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) lecturer Ameer Joan.

The main objective of publishing the dictionary is to preserve the Kejaman language. Not many Kejamans speak their native language now due to mix marriages.

Jacquelyne Ekot, Kota Kinabalu Polytechnic lecturer and co-authored

"The main objective of publishing the dictionary is to preserve the Kejaman language," said Jacquelyne, who hails from Long Liten, in a statement.

"Not many Kejamans speak their native language now due to mix marriages."

Volume 1 consists of 57 pages with 260 selected Kejaman words divided into 10 sub-lists including body parts, home, agriculture, animals, crops, fruits, musical instruments and woven materials.

"For now, the dictionary is not for sale as it is still awaiting an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) serial number from Unimas," she said.

"Volume 2 of the dictionary will be out soon if everything goes smoothly."



(From fourth left) Liwan, Jacquelyne and Ameer (third right) are seen at the soft launching for the dictionary.

Assistant Minister of Culture and Heritage Liwan Lagang performed a soft launching for the dictionary on Dec 23, when he also launched an attempt to create a record for the most number of participants in a Suwey Dance for the Malaysia Book of Records at the Kejaman Neh longhouse in Long Liten.

A total of 520 people participated in the event organised by the Sarawak Kejaman Association.

"The participants involved men, women and children from Kejaman Neh and Kejaman Lasah longhouses. They danced their way accompanied by the sape tune played by two Kejaman



Liwan (second right) joins the Suwey Dance record attempt.

Neh longhouse residents," said Jacquelyne.

The Kejamans can only be found in Sarawak and are one of

the smallest ethnic groups in the state.

They mainly reside in Kejaman Neh and Kejaman Ba Segaham.