

# Ngieng: Grander BCF this year

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**SIBU: Will this year's Borneo Cultural Festival from July 3 to 11, be scaled down due to the economic recession or the impact of the H1N1 flu?**

According to the Deputy Chairman of the Sibü Municipal Council, Daniel Ngieng, the answer is no.

"The BCF will be held on a bigger scale. This time we have the 26th Chinese Cultural Festival which will be held during the first three days of the BCF at the Town Square. Then, the Tradex (Trade and Exhibition) will also see more participation from businesses. This two combined make the event much grander," he said.

Speaking at a press conference after chairing the final meeting of the BCF Working Committee yesterday at the council, Ngieng said as far as budget for the BCF was concerned, the council was only allocating a token of its finan-

cial resource for the purpose.

"This is due to the strong participation by local organisations which contributed and donated money for the organising of the event which still carries the theme, 'Beauty in Ethnic Diversity,'" he pointed out.

As the event, the eighth in its series, was for all the communities, he said the people realised its importance and was helping to make it a success every year through their participation in one way or another.

"I am confident that judging by past experience, this year's BCF will be another crowd puller. During the past BCF, the volume of traffic from outstation to this town surged by 20%," he said.

Ngieng also said except for a Maori cultural troupe from New Zealand and another musical troupe from West Malaysia who called themselves, Mohran, this year's BCF



**NGIENG** (seated centre) and others showing the BCF posters and flyers

would focus more on local cultural troupes of the three main communities - Malay-Melanau, Chinese and Dayak.

These three communities as usual will have their own corner for their food and drink

stalls and cultural games.

As this year's BCF will be another busy one, he urged the people to observe the traffic rules to ensure an incident-free event.

Due to limited parking

spaces around the venue of the BCF, Ngieng also wanted revelers to park their vehicles outside the area and walk to the venue.

The Jalan Wong Nai Siong multi-storey car park would

only charge RM1 per entry from 5.30 pm to midnight during the duration of the BCF.

Meanwhile, SMC Secretary, Hii Chang Kee, said the council had started putting up the BCF fishtails in the town and in

Sarikei, Bintangor, Pakan and Kanowit.

Flyers and posters with the BCF programme will also be distributed to the people through taxi operators and hotels.