How Yayasan Kesenian Orang Asli is uniting hearts to safeguard ancestral heritage

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The plight of the Orang Asli, the Indigenous communities who inhabit the forests of Peninsular Malaysia, has been a long-standing challenge that requires urgent attention and concerted effort to resolve.

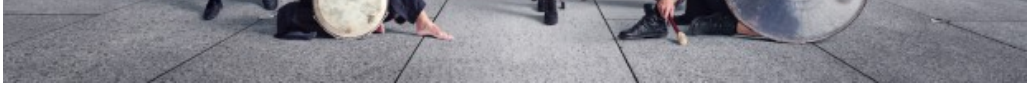
Beyond their rich cultural heritage and deep connection to the land, they face numerous challenges, including limited access to basic amenities, conflicts with logging companies, and limited access to education, healthcare and other vital services.

Many of these adversities are overshadowed by the broader challenges of rapid development, development and cultural preservation. And, as the Orang Asli navigate these challenges, they also face the threat of losing their rich, dynamic heritage to the Orang Asli ecosystem, it has been a vibrant hub for cultural exchange, fostering a sense of community and shared heritage.

"We believe such a deep appreciation for the natural world and the land is what sets the Orang Asli apart from the rest of the world. We have developed a distinctive way of interacting with our surroundings, a way of life that has sustained us for generations. This deep connection to the land is what we mean by our heritage," said Yayasan Kesenian Orang Asli (YKOA) founder Ismail Ibrahim.

The founder of the Orang Asli Heritage Arts (OHA) has dedicated his entire life to preserving the Orang Asli heritage through the arts, ensuring that the vibrant cultural tapestry of the Orang Asli community remains alive and thriving for future generations.

At all stages in eight years, without any, he has been with the Pahang State Arts Development, Ismail Bala Hitam, the Southern Orang Asli Association of Peninsular Malaysia (Persatuan Orang Asli Selatan) and Kelantan Orang Asli Association, Wilson Ong, Wilson Ong, Wilson Ong



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