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# Sabah football girls rearing to reclaim title

By Lester J. Bingkasan

**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah will go all out to regain the Tun Sharifah Rodziah title when the 29th edition of the country's premier women football tournament gets underway at Universiti Utara Malaysia in Sintok Kedah today.

The state women squad are the 11-time champions, but they lost to MISC-MIFA in the penalty shoot-out last year.

"There's only one target and that is to win," said head coach Smith Ampuling yesterday.

Sabah will kick-off their title challenge in Group A with Negeri Sembilan, Sarawak, Armed Forces (ATM), Perlis and Selangor.

Title holders MISC-MIFA, who are believed to be strengthened by Sabah players, will be in Group B with Perak, Penang, Pahang, Kuala Lumpur and Kedah.

The top two teams will make it into the semi-finals.

According to Smith, the MISC-MIFA team remain the state squad's main challengers in



**EYEING THE TITLE:** Eleven-time champions Sabah ready for the 29th Tun Sharifah Rodziah women football tournament starting today in Sintok, Kedah.

the tournament, however, he is confident that the 20-member squad would be able to rise to the occasion, especially with their mix of experienced and young talents.

The footballers are Asma Junaidi, Siti Azzah Azwah Izaty Ahmad, Nurul Azurin Mazlan, Masturah Majid,

Marcella Angela Parais, Yastika Laura Tumas, Alesca Ungau, Salisa Thomas, Shereilyn Elly Pius, Usliza Usman, Jaciah Jamulis, Nabila Shahirah Nafi, Keroline Raymond, Monika Patris Semudin, Dewinnisia Olga Patrick, Nur Athirah Farhanah Zairi, Aina Suraya Abdul Rahman, Jessica Sussane

Mailu, Yusrina Abdullah and Siti Hadizah Ahamad.

Meanwhile, Sabah will take on Negeri Sembilan at 8am today before playing against Borneo neighbour's Sarawak tomorrow.

ATM will be waiting in the third game on April 9 before they conclude their group fixtures against Selangor on April 11.