



The History of Kuching Municipal

— By Ho Ah Chon —

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By Ho Ah Chon



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Acknowledgement

FOREWORD

... the Datuk Bandar of Kuching City South was born on April 12, 1925, to Mr. & Mrs. Cheok.

... president of Kuching Municipal Council from December 28, 1965 to June 30, 1978. His grandfather was the late Song Kheng Hai a member of the Kuching Municipal Council.

This book brings us back to the late 1950s, at the time when the Local Government system here underwent a change that was to pave the way for the present day Local Government administration.

In this book, Mr. Ho Ah Chon has painstakingly re-produced, in a nutshell, the events leading to the first Kuching Municipal Council election, and the working of the elected Council thereafter.

In producing this book, Mr. Ho has in fact, done a great service to the citizens of Kuching. He has recaptured for them, through write-ups and photographs, events which could easily disappear from the memory of many through passage of time.

I congratulate Mr. Ho Ah Chon for his initiative and commend him for the quality of his "product". I am sure this work will be well appreciated by all those who have a keen interest in the development of local Government in Sarawak generally, and in Kuching in particular.

HO AH CHON
BBS, AMN.
24/12/1997

(Y.B DATUK SONG SWEE GUAN)

Speaker

Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak

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Acknowledgement

Datuk Song Swee Guan, the Datuk Bandar of Kuching City South was born on April 12, 1942 to Mr. & Mrs. Song Thian Cheok.

Datuk Song father was president of Kuching Municipal Council from December 28 1965 to June 30 1978. His grandfather was the late Song Kheng Hai a member of the Kuching Municipal who donated a piece of land for recreational activities and sports.

The ground at Jalan Padungan was name after him.

Thus the family has three generation of association with the administration of Kuching.

In October 1981 he was appointed a councillor of Kuching Municipal Council.

He become its chairman in 1982 and continues to hold this post until his appointment as major of Kuching City South. He had rendered 15 years loyal service to the administration of Kuching.

May I have the opportunity to thank Datuk Song Swee Guan once again for his "Forward" in this issue.

HO AH CHON

BBS, AMN.

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Originally, the building was the Sarawak Government Printing Office and now as the Kuching Municipal Council Office.

HISTORY

Prior to 1921 the functions of the Municipality were undertaken by the Public Works Department of the Central Government. In that year, however, the Kuching Sanitary and Municipal Advisory Board which later became the Municipal Authority for Kuching on 1st January, 1934 was formed, but continued as a Department of the Central Government. However, in 1941 the Government was considering giving full Municipal status to the Board, but the Second World War interrupted this and the question was not considered again until the resumption of Civil Government in 1946. In 1947, a modified form of the Committee system was introduced, as the work of the Board had grown to such an extent as to make it impracticable for the Municipal Commissioners to deal with the various problems of administration in a single monthly meeting.

In 1949 His Excellency the Governor directed that the Chairman, Kuching Municipal Board, should submit a comprehensive detailed scheme to convert the Municipality into a local government entity, financially self-supporting and managing its own affairs, subject to such safeguards as might be deemed advisable. As a result of this action the Municipality became autonomous on 1st January, 1953.

The Municipal Council at this time was formed on a purely racial basis of twenty-four representatives of the public with a European Government Officer as Chairman. His Excellency the Governor in Council appointed the Chairman as he also did six other Councillors of various nationalities, who represented different interests in the lives of the local community. The other eighteen councillors with the approval of His Excellency, were nominated by the various Association who look after the interests of the Chinese, Malay, Indian, Ceylonese, Dayak and European communities.

2A

In January, 1956, His Excellency the Governor instructed the Chairman of the Municipality to draw up plans in order that the first free elections could be held towards the end of the year. These elections were held on Sunday, 4th November, 1956. A total of 58 persons offered themselves as candidates for the 9 wards and 27 seats on the new Council. Polling was very heavy and 86% of the electorate voted. The total number of ballot papers returned was 3,951 and of these only 42 were spoilt. The total votes amounted to 10,290.

The new Council, which held office for a period of 3 years, took over the affairs of the Municipality on 1st December, 1956. The President and Vice-President, who were elected by the Council from amongst its members, held office for one year only, but were eligible for re-election. Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan, C.B.E., was elected the First President of the Council and Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, M.A., the First Vice-President.

The second Municipal election took place on Sunday, 15th November, 1959. There were 52 candidates competing for the 27 seats. The total number of votes cast was 9,864 as compared with 10,290 in the first election and the percentage of votes cast was 78.3 as against 86.6 in the 1956 election. Out of the 27 old councillors, 15 were returned in the second elections. The second elected Council was inaugurated on 1st December, 1959. The change of Council also saw a change of President of the Council: Cr. the Hon'able Mr. Ong Kee Hui was elected President replacing Cr. Hon'ble Mr. William Tan who had held the office for the 3 consecutive years since the beginning of the elected Council on 1st December, 1956.

Owing to the constitutional changes, the third local council election in the Municipality of Kuching were held 7 months later than it should have been held, that is, on Sunday 23rd June, 1963. With the amendments to the Local Government Election Ordinance, in 1963, the number of registered voters had increased considerably. As a result of the change of franchise, any person who had been normally resident in Sarawak for 7 out of the preceding 10 years and who had attained the age of 21 years and were on qualifying day, resident within the limits of the Kuching Municipal area were qualified to be registered as voters. This had resulted in the need to conduct house to house registration for the compilation of a new register of voters which was the reason for the delay in this third local council election. For comparison, the number of registered voters in the 1963 election was 16,302 as against 4,798 in 1959 - an increase of 11,504.

The third Municipal Election also marked the turning point of history for the Kuching Municipal Council as for the first time the elections were contested on party lines following the growth of political parties in the country. Three political parties filing 58 contestants and 11 independent candidates took part in the election. The Sarawak United Peoples's Party won 21 out of the 27 seats on the council. The remaining 6 seats were taken by Party Negara Sarawak and the Alliance Party. None of the 11 independent candidates were returned. Out of the 27 newly elected Councillors, 10 were serving Councillors then. Polling was heavy and 80.4% or 36,306 votes were cast, Cr. the Hon'ble Ong Kee Hui was re-elected as President of the Council.

A by-election was held on 17th April, 1966 consequent upon the resignation of Mr. George Seah Kim Seng as a Councillor, as from 15th February, 1966, Mr. John Fong was elected in his place.

The three year term of office of the Councillors should have expired on 30th June, 1966. However, the office was extended by a Government decision until such time to be decided by the Governor in Council, being not less than six months after a dissolution of the Council Negri (State Legislative Assembly) Council Negri was dissolved on 20th March, 1969. The Proclamation of Emergency in the country by H.M. the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong under Article 150(2) of the Constitution in 1969 interrupted any further general elections. In the meantime, the Councillors of the Kuching Municipal Council continued to hold office. During the year 1967, Cr. Chua Choo Seng vacated his seat and this vacancy was filled by Cr. Kong Yun Chong who was returned unopposed in a by-election held on 9th July, 1967. On 15th November, 1968, Cr. the Hon'ble Abang Ikhwan Zaini resigned from office as a Councillor and his seat was filled by Cr. Bidari bin Mohammad in a by-election held on 19th January, 1969.

In June, 1970, the first direct General Election of members to the Council Negri (State Legislative Assembly) and to the Malaysian Parliament took place. Cr. the Hon'ble Datuk Ong Kee Hui was

elected on the Parliament and Cr. Stephen K.T. Yong was elected to the Council Negri. Both Cr. Ong and Cr. Yong were then serving Councillors of the Kuching Municipal Council.

The second General Election for the Parliamentary Constituency and the two State Constituencies of Bandar Kuching were held simultaneously on 24th August, 1974. Cr. Datuk Ong Kee Hui successfully retained his seat in the Parliamentary Constituency of Bandar Kuching. In the same general elections, Cr. the Hon'ble Datuk Stephen K.T. Yong was also elected to the Parliament and Cr. Mohammad bin Musa, to the Council Negri (Sarawak State Legislative Assembly).

The Councillors who were elected at the Third General Election on 1st July, 1963 continued to hold office as extended by Government and have thus been serving for 15 years reckoning up to 30th June, 1978. Two other Councillors had resigned and 3 others had passed away during this time. Their vacancies were not filled and the number of Councillors now remains at 22.

The Council Administration

The Kuching Municipal Council is a corporation established under the Kuching Municipal Ordinance responsible for managing the Municipal affairs of Kuching Town, the State Capital of Sarawak. Like all other local authorities, it is essentially a Municipal authority providing public services within its area of jurisdiction.

The mode by which the Council conducts its business is through the committee system. There are presently 10 standing committees viz.:

- Standing Committee for Town Planning
- Standing Committee for Traffic
- Standing Committee for Public Health
- Standing Committee for Works
- Standing Committee for Buildings
- Standing Committee for Housing
- Standing Committee for General Purposes and Community Services
- Standing Committee for Establishment
- Standing Committee for Finance and the Tenders Committee

Each of these standing committees normally meets once a month to deal with the respective terms of reference with which the Committees are charged and makes decision in the form of recommendation to full Council for its adoption at its ordinary meeting, which meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Under the Council's Standing Orders, no committee is to sit in public but the press and the public may attend the full ordinary /council meeting.

The Municipal Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council. The function of the organisation are undertaken by its various departments, namely, the Secretariat, the Municipal Treasury, the Municipal Engineering Department, the Public Cleansing and Maintenance Department, the Health Department, the Rating and Valuation Department, the Parking Control Division, the Kuching Fire Brigade, the Municipal Library, the Maternity and Child Health Services and the Council Housing Estate Department. Each of the department is headed by a chief officer who has control over his departmental votes of expenditure, as approved in the annual Estimates of Council.

The functions of the Council

The duties and functions of the Council are as laid down under the Kuching Municipal Ordinance, the Public Health Ordinance, the Road Traffic Ordinance and the relevant by-laws and regulations made under them. In brief the Council is responsible for:

- (1) Rating and Valuation over properties within its area. It collects local municipal revenue through the Municipal Treasury for providing the various services.

- (2) As the highway authority within its area responsible for traffic regulations and for establishing and maintaining traffic signs and provision of parking space.
- (3) Construction and maintenance of streets, roads and drains and provision of street lighting.
- (4) Establishing and maintenance of public parks, gardens, playgrounds and sports field.
- (5) Town Cleansing including refuse collection and disposal, conservancy, sewerage and other public sanitary in public premises, markets, hawkers stalls and slaughter-house.
- (6) Environment sanitation, food sanitation in public markets, hawker stalls and slaughterhouse.
- (7) Establishment and maintenance of public markets and hawker-centres as well as the issue of licenses therefore.
- (8) Licensing authority for the Kuching Municipal area for business as such foodshops, food factories, markets and hawkers, storage and sale of petrol and petroleum products, public entertainments, barbers, hotels, and lodging house, laundries as well as licensing of bicycles/tricycles/handcarts, dogs, stock keeping, slaughtering of pigs and cattle and weights and measures.
- (9) Fire-fighting services.
- (10) Provision and maintenance of lending library service.
- (11) Provision and maintenance of public swimming pool.
- (12) Establishment and maintenance of low-cost housing estate.
- (13) Approving authority for construction of buildings and roads within its areas of jurisdiction.
- (14) Control over advertisements and public entertainments.
- (15) Control over weights and measures.
- (16) Naming and re-naming of roads and streets as well as the numbering of houses, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.
- (17) Burial of paupers and other unclaimed corpses from the hospital mortuary, at a cemetery at Bukit Sabun, Pending Road which land was alienated to the Council by the State Government for such purposes.
- (18) Requiring any author of public nuisance to abate same by serving on such persons specific orders or notices to do so and to institute legal proceedings against such persons in the event of their default in complying with any such orders or notices.

The Council was hitherto the planning authority in the control of subdivision of land. However, with the passing of the Land Code (Control of Subdivision) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1972, this power has with effect from 20th December, 1972 been transferred to the Director of Lands and Surveys, Sarawak.

Up to the end of 1972, there were 9 primary schools directly owned and managed by the Council within the Kuching Municipality including 1 jointly shared with the Kuching Rural district Council. These, together with 14 others managed by community school boards, had provided school places to all children Kuching of 6 years and above from Primary One to Primary Six in mediums of instruction of the parents' choice. The Council also managed a school for the deaf and a school for the blind on a 100% grant from the Government. It was the first local authority in Sarawak to introduce free primary education as from 1966.

The management of all primary schools under the local authorities in Sarawak was taken over by the State Government with effect from 1st January, 1973.

Population

The population in 1977 for the Municipal area of 71 square miles and the out-skirts estimated to be 120,000 persons. According to 1970 Housing and Population Census there were 7,271 living quarters and 9,654 households. The population then was 64,750 persons.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION

The Kuching Municipal Council is a corporation established under the Kuching Municipal Ordinance responsible for managing the Municipal affairs of Kuching Town which is the State Capital of Sarawak.

Kuching is situated on the south bank of the Sarawak River some 18 miles inland from the sea and the Municipal area extends from the town centre for about 3 miles to the east, west and south with an area of about 71 square miles. The area outside this limit is under the jurisdiction of the Kuching Rural District Council.

The Kuching Municipal Council area is divided into 9 electoral wards and the law provides for the registered voters in each ward to elect, at each local Council general election, 3 representatives to serve in the 27-seat Council; The Councillors from amongst themselves elect a President and a Vice-President annually.

The Council is using the standing committee system in the conduct of Municipal affairs. There are so far 11 standing committees. They are the Town Planning Committee, Public Health Committee, Works Committee, Buildings Committee, Education Committee, General Purposes Committee, Traffic Committee, Tenders Committee, Housing Committee, Finance Committee and Establishment Committee. The committees normally meet once a month to deal with their respective field of functions and make recommendations to the Council for adoption at its monthly meeting.



The executive functions are undertaken by the various departments which are under the Municipal Secretary who is the Chief Executive Officer. These departments are the Municipal Engineering Department, the Health Department, the Public Cleansing and Maintenance Departments, the Valuation and Rating Department, the Municipal Treasury, the Municipal Lending Library, Kuching Fire Brigade, Maternity and Child Health and Primary Education.

KUCHING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1954

GENERAL

On the 26th January, 1954, the then Chairman of the Council, Mr. M. S. B. Buck, was transferred from Kuching to become Resident of the Fourth Division. This transfer ended the eight years association between Mr. Buck and the local government authority in Kuching. On the same day Mr. J. C. B. Fisher, previously Resident of the Fifth Division, was sworn in as Chairman.

Attendance by Councillors at meetings continued at the high level set in 1953 although it was noticeable that many Councillors had voluntary duties other than those of Municipal Councillor.

(b) EDUCATION

As the detailed report on local education indicates, the assumption of responsibility for education by the Council brought no perceptible change and the Council did little more than act as pay-master for Government. Long and exhaustive discussions were held by the Standing Committee and its co-operated advisers to lay down a clear policy for the advancement of local education and many hours were spent in costing various schemes. Lack of finance, however, left the situation at the end of 1954 much as it had been at the beginning.

(c) HOUSING

The Housing Scheme for Kuching, detailed in the Woolmer Report, has now received the approval of the Governor-in-Council. The Municipal Council's intention was to provide housing at the lowest possible cost to relieve the congestion in the bazaar areas. The building cost for 534 units are estimated at \$3,440,000 towards which Government has offered a subsidy of \$575,000; the rate of interest on the government loan for the balance has been fixed at 4% per annum.

The average rent for each of the proposed 532 units will be \$33.78 and it is considered that this rent will be within the mean of most who require re-housing. The scheme will serve to alleviate some of the worst over-crowding in Kuching but, if re-housing is to be avoided as a major problem, the first scheme must be followed by others.

Although no population figures are available since the 1947 Census figures, it is probable that the population of Kuching has swelled by a drift from country to town and that the present population is in the neighbourhood of 50,000. The rate of private building is completely inadequate to deal with housing an additional 2,000 people each year apart from dealing with the task of re-housing from over-crowded areas.

The problem is accentuated by the condition of large sections of the bazaar area which are probably getting beyond maintenance and repair. The Engineer's reports indicated that the demolition and re-building of sections of the commercial part of the town is likely to become urgent within the next few years. Although the bazaar is classified as commercial, it contains the highest density of population in Kuching. Building costs are now down approximately to the 1949 level after reaching a peak up 1951/1952, but it is doubtful if this will provide a sufficient incentive for owners of bazaar property to undertake any extensive rebuilding.

However, although the housing position offers no grounds for complacency, the Kuching Municipal Council has a chance to deal with housing problems at an early stage. To quote the Woolmer Report on this point "Kuching has an ideal opportunity to do what few towns have done so far, namely, to deal with slum areas economically and speedily". The project is an ambitious one for

a new Municipality with inadequate staff and its inception has only been possible through the unstinted help which the Singapore Improvement Trust and the departments of the Sarawak Government have generously given.

MUNICIPAL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

ROADS.

During the year there was a deterioration in the general state of many of the municipal roads, to which there were three main contributing causes.

Heavy rain fell for long periods even during the dry season, and consequently not only was patching and maintenance retarded, but water penetrating to the base course caused the roads break up more rapidly. To this must be added the large increase in the number of heavy vehicle using the roads. Main road reconstruction, laying underground cables and water mains caused road closures for long periods which meant that many of the minor roads were called upon to carry for heavier and more frequent loads than was intended when they were designed. Some of these road proved incapable of taking this increased load and in order to maintain the flow of traffic, constant maintenance was required, while throughout the remainder of the municipal area there remains more pot holes and shoulder failures than could be controlled.

Since the main traffic arteries have been reopened, much of the damage has been restored but the Council has been left in no doubt that foundations of minor roads, practically without exception, are totally inadequate to carry present day traffic.

Two major road improvements were completed, Rock Road from Satok Road to Badruddin Road was widened to a twenty four feet carriageway with two grass verges, storm drains and on foot-path. In two places the road was lowered to improve vision while a sharp bend was considerably eased.

Crookshank Road, the other main contract, was originally a sharp bend which coincided with a hump in section reducing visibility to a few feet. Here again the road was levelled, the bend eased and a reinforced concrete retaining wall was built.

Under the Colony road development programme, the Public Works Department designed let contracts and supervised two road works within the Municipal area, Green Road and Batu Lintang Road as one project and Sekama Road the other. Although these two jobs are not yet completed, considerable progress has been made. The sum to be spent by the Council and Government on these four road improvements is approximately \$567,100.

An Allis-Chalmers Tracto Shovel was added to the Municipal fleet and this has material assisted the progress of various works.

BUILDINGS.

There was a slight increase in the number of building applications, the Council considered 403 of which 299 were approved. 63 buildings were completed during the year.

Aluminium roofing has been prohibited in residential areas by resolution of the Council, while its use in industrial areas is subject to consideration of the merits of individual cases.

HOUSING.

Considerable progress has been made towards the construction of the municipal flats and the way is now clear for proceeding with the administration of letting a contract for the piling, to be followed immediately with the man contract for construction.

The proposal is for the construction of 532 housing units by the erection of 6 seven-storey flats, 11 three-storey flats and 5 two-storey flats. An existing house on the site will be converted into six flats.

The design has been carried out by the Singapore Improvement Trust and is almost exactly similar to those erected by themselves with minor modifications to meet local conditions and demands; as a result the Council will derive the benefit of many years of practical experience in the design of the most economical type of housing unit, essential to permit rents to be kept down to a minimum.

GENERAL.

As a result of road widening schemes and corner improvements, a number of trees in the municipal area had to be felled. In partial compensation for this loss and in an endeavour to improve the amenities and appearance of the district, 364 ornamental tree seedlings each protected by wire netting were planted in the Batu Lintang area.

Grass verges in the municipal area continued to be maintained by a combination of mechanical cutters and scythes, the latter taking over the steep slopes and uneven ground where a machine was impracticable. The grass is cut twice each month. In May two full time dog catchers were employed to destroy unlicensed dogs and as a result the number of dogs licensed increased by 30% in the second half of the year.

The notable lack of civic pride contributed to many of the unsightly features of the township and gave rise to insanitary conditions that could readily have been avoided. There is, however, steady progress towards getting or enforcing co-operation from offenders.

OVERCROWDED PREMISES.

Little action was taken to deal with the insanitary and unauthorised cubicles in overcrowded premises owing to the acute housing shortage. Nothing of material benefit can be done to alleviate overcrowding until the Municipal Housing Scheme is completed.

COUNCIL:

The attendance of Councillors at Committee and Council meetings has shewn a regrettable tendency to fall away from the high standards set in the previous two years. Although most Councillors were punctilious in informing Council of prospective absences in advance, this procedure was by no means invariable. A majority of Councillors find themselves representing their fellow citizens on public bodies with a wide variety of functions and probably too much public work is done by too few. Throughout the year the Council continued to have ex-officio representation on the Kuching School Safety First Council, Rent Control Board Cathedral Committee, Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak and the Kuching and District Planning Committee: (Chairmanship or Presidency of the Kuching and District Planning Committee and the Kuching Rent Control Board respectively being held ex-officio by the Chairman of the Council)

Among the members of the Council there were four councillors who were also appointed members of the Council Negri. They were Councillors M. Sockalingam, A.T. Wedgwood, Datu Abang Openg and Ong Kee Hui.

Since its inception the Council has had an unofficial majority based upon racial representation; Council is becoming increasingly aware of the need for elected representation. In three years the Council has rapidly extended its functions and this expansion has tended to push the vital need for elections into the background. The course of the next two years should, however, see the achievement of an elected Council.

The work of Council passed through the following committees: Town Planning, Public Health Works, Education, General Purposes & Traffic, and Finance; control of public markets (together with hawkers) and of public housing is the responsibility of the Health Committee and the Finance Committee respectively. In 1957, these responsibilities should be divorced from the present committees and vest in separate committees.

INDUSTRY:

The comparatively rapid development of industry at the 7th mile Penrissen Road has tended to overshadow industrial development within the Kuching Municipal area. Such development as occurred during the year might properly be classified as cottage industry or somewhere between cottage industry and light industry. In the absence of an area suitable for major industrial development, this development is likely to provide the standard pattern until the new port area at Sungei Priok is an actuality instead of a blue print. In recognition of the need for expansion of the industrial zone, the Municipal Council has purchased and is preparing a site at Petanak. In the interests of economy, the extensive filling required is being done by dumping town refuse; the site

should be ready for occupation in 1956.

The planning of any new industrial zone is probably dependant upon enlarging the Municipal boundaries.

HOUSING:

All contracts for the Council's \$3,500,000 low cost housing scheme have now been let and work on the site has started. Serious difficulties in piling both the housing site and the adjacent firestation site have been met and the completion schedules are behind hand. Re-casting the phases of the scheme should, however, reduce the delay. Building costs have increased since the scheme was drawn up and the housing is likely to cost some 5% more than was estimated.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the present scheme must be regarded as the first of many if housing is to keep pace with the rapidly expanding population.

Private building continues on a modest level. The high rents which even substandard dwellings command is an inducement to property owners to attempt to convert domestic out-buildings into dwelling units usually of a most unsuitable type. Applications to convert garages and stores into servants' quarters are becoming increasingly common although it is doubtful if the number of domestic servants would show a comparable increase.

The need for building loans made available through building societies or comparable organisations at low rates of interest is becoming urgent.

A fair amount of progress had been made towards improving the traditional shophouse designs, and Crown land alienated for shophouse lots is now alienated with 30 foot frontages which permits much better planning. Jesselton, the capital town of North Borneo, has produced an admirable shophouse design and an amalgamation of that design with local plans may give the answer to an exhaustively investigated problem.

The standard of detached dwelling houses vice shophouses remains regrettably but understandably low. The high level of building costs tends to prohibit private building in permanent materials.

Land values remain high which denies opportunities to the speculative builder; there are in Kuching no housing estates of the type commonly to be met with in Singapore and the Federation of Malaya although there is ample evidence of a willingness to undertake this class of housing venture if conditions were a little more favourable. Why land values should be so inflated within the Municipal boundaries is not clear since considerable areas remain undeveloped or are developed uneconomical; perhaps the lack of an investment market contributes to this and a rating system based on annual values encourages it.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mechanical street sweeping has decisively improved the appearance of the streets at a substantial reduction in costs; this would not have been possible without first finding a method for replacing worn bristles on sweepers locally. The saving in costs shows no reflection in the financial estimates since it is the Council's policy to transfer redundant labour to other tasks.

By the end of the "dry" season, the Kuching roads were in a fair of repair despite the increased weight of traffic. The effects of the 1954/1955 landas season had reduced the roads to such deplorable condition that Council saw fit to appropriate additional funds for road maintenance in anticipation of the actual need. Increased supervision, however, resulted in a sharp improvement and the roads were repaired to and maintained in fair condition within the originally approved estimates. The costs of road maintenance and the dislocation to traffic arising from repair works, will remain unduly high until the road foundations are improved.

The 1955 plan for improvements to Rock Road included the laying of the first post-war stretch of concrete road in Kuching. The experimental stretches of concrete road lain over 20 years ago in Gambier Road in Padungan indicated the value of this class of road. The 1995 experimental strip was built without reinforcement and at a cost not substantially higher than that of a comparable stretch of standard road. The finish to the road is not good, as might be expected with unskilled labour using a new technique but, so far, the road shows every indication of answering the Council's high expectation.

All contracts for the new firestation and fire brigade flats have been let; it is most unfortunate that serious piling difficulties are delaying the completion of this project which, in turn, is delaying the start of the development plan for the old firestation site in the town centre.



*Councillor the Honourable Mr. William Tan, C.B.E.
A.L.A.A., President of the Council*

1st December, 1956	—	30th November, 1957
1st December, 1957	—	30th November, 1958
1st December, 1958	—	30th November, 1959

FOR 1956

COUNCIL:

On the 1st December, 1956, the Kuching Municipal Council achieved the status and dignity of a fully elected Council with an elected President and Vice-President:

The history of the post-war development of local government in Kuching is short in relation to the long preceding period when the political aspirations of its multi-racial community were virtually dormant. Up to 1921, the affairs of the township were controlled by the Public Works Department of Central Government: in 1922 a nominated advisory board, the Kuching Sanitary and Municipal Advisory Board, was formed with a composition of five Europeans (three of whom were official members), four Chinese, one Malay and one Indian.

The minutes of the Advisory Board meetings between 1922 and 1928, bound in one volume, survived the Japanese occupation. It is interesting to see that the two items recurring on the 1922 agenda were considered by Council again in 1956. The first was a rating problem: "to consider the question of the assessment of Malay householders...." and the second "to consider the proposal to include the Cross River Kampongs within the Municipal area". Later reference will be made to these problems.

By 1941, Government was considering the grant of local autonomy to Kuching but the outbreak of war effectively caused postponement of any action. On the resumption of civil Government, the Board was reformed and the standard local government practice of working through committees adopted late in 1946. The work of the Board (with the exception of refuse and nightsoil collection, fire prevention, control of markets and slaughter-houses and the maintenance of open spaces) was carried out by Government departments mainly Public Works Department, Medical and Health Department and Treasury. The standing committees of the Board at that time were similar in constitution to the 1956 committees of Council except for the addition of Finance and Education Committees. The later additional functions of Council were absorbed by existing committees.

By 1949, the Kuching Municipal Board was proposing that elections should be held to elect eleven of a proposed total of twenty-one Commissioners but local autonomy preceded elections by three years. Following upon the enactment of the Kuching Municipal Ordinance, 1952, the Kuching Municipal Council was established as a body corporate on the 1st January, 1953, with a maximum of 27 members and a minimum of six members. The functions previously exercised by Government departments on behalf of the Board were taken over in rapid succession by the new Council: January 1953, Public Health and Public Works; October 1953, Roads; January 1954, Primary Education and Treasury; March 1954, Low Cost Housing; January 1955, Vehicle and Plant Maintenance; January 1956, Weights and Measures: Revenues of Council also increased rapidly from a total of \$272,591 in 1948 to \$2,270,933 in 1956. During this period (1953-1956) the Council had an unofficial majority based upon racial representation.

The elected Council had only one month of office during 1956 but attendance at Council and Committee meetings was high and representatives on matters of interest were pressed with considerable vigour.

ELECTIONS:

Elections on a territorial basis were held on the 4th November, 1956, got for the election of 27 Councillors. The events leading up to the election of the new Council have been fully reported in the Elections Reports and comment here is necessarily brief. Concern had been expressed that electorate would be apathetic and that candidates would be slow to offer themselves for election. Events disproved these fears: in depressing weather, 86% of the electorate voted for the 57 candidates who contested 27 seats. On the nominated Councillors, five were returned by election to Council which gave an element of continuity between the nominated and elected Councils.

On the 1st December, 1956; the new Council took office.

The voting for the office of President was close, one vote separating the two nominees; the Council unanimously elected a Malay Councillor as Vice-President. With the appointment of Council's Standing Committees, the transition from a nominated to an elected Council was smoothly completed.

FOR 1957

COUNCIL:

1957 was the first full year of the fully elected Council with a President and Vice-President chosen by the Councillors from amongst their number. Both the President, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan, and the Vice-President, Cr. Ahmed Zaidi Adruce, M.A. whose terms of office expired on 30th November, 1957, were re-elected.

The attendance of Councillors, who give their time to civic affairs without pecuniary compensation, was regular both at meetings of Committees and of the Council, and lively debates took place. The interest of His Excellency the Governor in the progress of Council affairs was much appreciated. He attended the opening of the new Fire Station by the President on 13th April, 1957, and made an informal inspection of the various works in progress with the President in July.

The right Hon'ble the Earl of Perth, P.C., Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, accompanied by Lady Perth toured the Municipality with the President on 5th September, 1957. Other visitors who called upon the President and were conducted round the Municipality included Mr. R. E. Hales, Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company, Limited, Dr. Wong Tsio Yong, Vice-President for Asia of the Junior Chamber of Commerce International.

An interesting link was established with the City of London with the delivery of a letter of goodwill from the Right Hon'ble the Lord Mayor of London, handed to the President by Mr. H.T. Pike, a member of the Court of Common Council of the City of London.

In the course of a tour of North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak, the President was accorded official receptions by the Towns Boards of Jesselton and Sandakan and the Miri Urban District Council.

A party of six Councillors visited the oilfields at Seria in April as the guests of the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company, Limited, and Councillor John Lee Nyuk Syn represented the Council on a study tour of Local Authorities in the United Kingdom under the auspices of the British Council.

ELECTIONS:

No by-election took place during the year. A full report on the Municipal Elections held on 4th November, 1956, prepared by the former Chairman of the Council, was published.

HOUSING:

Private housing development showed an increase over 1956, seventy houses, nine shophouses and one industrial building being completed during the year.

Plans were also approved for the development of an estate of 163 terrace type, semi-detached, and detached houses, together with six shops by Messrs. Dale Marden and Company, Limited, in conjunction with the Malaya-Borneo Building Society Limited, at Batu Lintang Road.

A new bazaar layout, consisting of 160 units of shophouses and business premises and including a cinema and swimming pool sites, was approved for development by Messrs. Wee Kheng Chiang and Company, Limited, at Padungan. Site preparation for both these projects was in progress at the end of the year.

In addition seventy-six other applications for subdivision of land were dealt with by the Council. During the course of the year all the three-storey flats of the Municipal low cost housing project were completed and occupied, tenant for the seventy-eight two room flats and the seventy-eight three-room flats being selected from the applicants on a points basis. The first block of seven-storey two room flats was scheduled for occupation in January 1958. Monthly rents have been fixed at \$61.00 for the forty terrace houses, occupied in 1956, \$52.00 for the three-room flats, and \$39.00 for two-room flats. These figures include the elements for rates and service charges for communal lighting, lifts, cleaning of staircases and drains, and maintenance of grounds.

There was a slight improvement in the standard of sanitation. No new bucket latrines were permitted, and approval was given to ten applications for the conversion of existing bucket latrines to septic tank systems.

HOUSING:

The rate of private housing development continues to be inadequate to meet the expanding population of the Municipal area. Only 56 houses and 14 shophouses were erected during the year and, whilst the number of new housing units exceeds the number of new buildings, the rate of increase is still extremely low.

The standard of new buildings has improved considerably in both design and construction and the standard of sanitation maintains the earlier improvement.

On the 1st November, the first phase of the Municipal low cost housing project was completed and the tenants moved into 40 terraced houses. The remaining phases are progressing satisfactorily after the initial set-back with piling difficulties and it is estimated that the last of the 532 units will be completed and ready for occupation October 1957. The total costs of construction are estimated to be \$3,845,390; the monthly payments for rent and rates, including service charges for communal lighting, lifts, cleaning, scavenging and maintenance of grounds will be approximately \$61, for terraced houses, \$52, for two-bedroom flats and \$39, for singled bedroom flats.

Despite gross overcrowding in bazaar areas, competition for tenancy is not vigorous although the rents for the new quarters are reasonably competitive. A major cause is probably a reluctance to move away from the immediate neighbourhood of employment.

During the year, discussions were held with representatives of the Malaya-Borneo Building Society with the object of exploring the possibilities of the Society building medium priced houses for sale on mortgage. The primary requisite for this class of development is land for residential development at moderate cost, say \$5,000 an acre. The current price for residential land within the Municipal area varies widely between \$15,000 and acre with individual building lots commanding relatively higher prices. Investigations to meet the strong demand for medium priced houses to be available on mortgage continues.

BOUNDARIES:

During 1956, the limits of the Kuching Municipal area were amended to excise the kampong areas which lie across River. Administration of these areas had always been difficult and uneconomical and, following upon a petition from the residents, powers were taken to excise all cross-river kampongs from the Municipal area. This action reversed the decision taken in 1922.

INDUSTRY:

During the year, progress was made on site preparation for the Council's light industrial area at Petanak. The site was purchased for the purpose of housing light industry, at present situated in the bazaar areas, on lots of about 1 of an acre. The high incidence in the bazaar area of light industry carrying a high fire risk (carpentry and vehicle repair shops) necessitates plans for the removal of these trades to a safer zone. To reduce the costs of site preparation, town wastes have been used for filling which has reduced the rate of progress to some extent.

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MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT

ROADS:

For some years the increasing density of traffic in Kuching has been the cause of concern to the Council because of the problems associated with maintaining old roads under new loads. These problems still exist and are only satisfactorily solved by reconstructed is limited by the availability of funds.

Another concern arising from the increase in traffic and equally serious, is that of the traffic congestion and available parking space, but all aspects of the traffic problem were studied by Council throughout the year. Road signs were erected, parking areas defined, and non-parking areas declared with the result that, generally speaking, and especially in the Bazaar area, the flow of traffic has been improved.

Some complaints have been voiced that it is not now possible to park a car outside every shop or market stall that it is intended to visit, but the motoring public of Kuching must learn that the number of cars and lorries on the road at present to say nothing of the thousands of bicycles, makes such regulations as have been made a necessity, and that they must be prepared to leave their vehicle in some prescribed area and walk to the shops or the markets as has to be done in most towns and cities throughout the world.

The maintenance and expansion of such essential services as water mains and telephone cables has caused some inconvenience in certain areas of the town, but it is appreciated by the Council and by the general public that such work is inevitable and that although the road temporarily suffer, benefits are experienced in other directions. In any case, the reinstatement was soon carried out and the roads suffered no permanent damage.

The main road work consisted of the reconstruction of Tabuan Road from its junction with Pig Lane to Sekama Road. The length from Pig Lane to Central Road was straightened and the slope improved, while the length from Central Road to Sekama Road was raised several feet to prevent inundation of the carriage-way as occurred during heavy rain the past, while the curves were eased and the whole road widened. At the Central Road junction, a traffic round-about was constructed which is easily negotiated and which gives a good line of sight at the corners, with the result that the flow of traffic is not restricted, in spite of the fact that both roads carrying a considerable amount of traffic, and at the same time the crossing is rendered safe.

A number of minor road works were also carried out. Part of Reservoir Road was widened and sealed during the year. Unfortunately insufficient funds prevented the whole road from being reconstructed, but work started from the Mac Dougall Road end and continued as far as the last residence along the road, with the result that all essential users have been catered for. Jawa Street had, for some years, been the only unsealed road in the Bazaar area, but this has now been dealt with, giving advantage not only to shophouse frontages, but also all persons using the Ban Hock Wharf godowns and local landing stages for cross river ferries.

Palm Road was also improved from Pisang Road to the back entrance of the General Hospital, and parts of Padungan Road made up in front of the new shophouses in that area.

The residents on Rubber Road West have been catered for by the construction of an earth road from Green Road and reaching as far as the last house that is charged full assessment. Some stone was provided for a running surface and while this does not pretend to be a highway, it does at least

give the residents a reasonable access.

Among other minor works were the provision of traffic roundabouts at the junction of Wayang Street and Temple Street and at Sekama Road/Tabuan Road junction, provision of a drive-in and hard standing for the new Fire Station, roadworks associated with the construction of the Bus Station in Khoo Hun Yeang Street, and the construction of roads at the Council's new Depot extension in Petanak Road.

PUBLIC HOUSING AND AMENITIES:

The council's Low Cost Housing Scheme showed satisfactory progress during the year. All the terrace houses and 3-storey flats have been occupied since September while the six blocks of 7-storey buildings are nearing completion.

Installation of lifts, sanitary work and electricity supply are well advanced, and the sewerage disposal plant has maintained steady progress and its completion will coincide with the other buildings and work which constitute the scheme.

A number of children's swings, roundabouts and see-saws have been provided in various open spaces throughout the Municipal area.

FOR 1958

COUNCIL:

“Members of this Council can justly pride themselves on the way in which debates and discussions, whether in full Council or Committees, are conducted with the genuine desire to find the best solutions to the problems before them. There is always more than one possible solution to any matter, but those Councillors who from time to time find themselves in the minority when a vote is taken bow to the majority decision with dignity and good humour. This greatly assists your President in discharging his duties.”

This extract from the President's address to the Council on 25th November, 1958, contains the key to the steady progress made during the year.

1958 was the second year of the present Council's three year term of office. The annual elections of the President and Vice-President for the Council year commencing 1st December, 1958, were held on 25th November, 1958. The President, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan was unanimously re-elected for a third term, and Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. Stephen Kuet Tze Yong was elected Vice-President. Cr. Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, who was Vice-President in 1957 and 1958 declined to stand for re-election.

The attendance of Councillors throughout the year was regular, and there were no long periods of leave taken by Councillors.

The President's Chain and Badge of Office was worn by the President of the Council for the first time at the opening of the Kampong Lumba Kuda Council School on 28th February, 1958.

The Council at its meeting held on 24th June, 1958, recorded with deep regret the death at Lawas on June 6th 1958 of Mr. J.C.H. Barcroft, C.M.G., O.S.S., Chief Secretary of Sarawak.

ELECTIONS:

Two by-elections were held during 1958. The first by-election for Satok south Ward was held on 25th May, occasioned by the vacancy created by Mr. Teo Kui Seng who resigned his seat on 6th March as a result of his taking up residence in Sibiu. The other by-election for Central Ward was held on 12th October, as a result of a vacancy created by Mr. Shii Dai Seng who resigned on 2nd August, on his proceeding to the United Kingdom to take up a teacher's, training course. The votes cast were 50.8% and 52.8% of the total number of voters on the register for these Wards.

Cr. Frank James was the successful candidate out of a total of four persons contesting Satok South Ward. Cr. Ngui Ah Shin was elected at the by-election for Central Ward in which three persons contested the seat.

HOUSING:

Construction work began during the early part of the year on the private estates at Batu Lintang Road and at the junction of Rock Road and Ong Tiang Swee Road. A proposal to develop a housing estate consisting mainly of terrace houses at the corner of Sekama Road and Tabuan Road was approved in principle by the Council. In addition seventy-one other applications for sub-division of land were dealt with by the Council.

The last 7-storey block of Municipal flats at Ban Hock Road was occupied on 1st. August, 1958, thus making the whole housing scheme of 532 units completely tenanted on that date.

The Council continued to pursue its policy not to permit the erection of bucket latrines, and this reflected in the improvement in the standard of sanitation generally. A number of applications were approved during the year for the conversion of existing bucket latrines to the septic tank system.

INDUSTRY:

There was little progress in the development of the light industrial area behind the Padungan Bazaar. This may be due to trade recession generally and the high prices demanded by owners for land.

In spite of the encouragement offered by the Pioneer Industries Ordinance, there was as yet no sign of its effect on industrial development in the Municipality.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company began erecting a new power station at Sungei Priok, Pending, to replace the existing one in the bazaar area at Power Street.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The Municipal Valuer continued to manage the Council's housing estate at Ban Hock Road in addition to his other duties.

As more flats were completed and occupied, an officer from the Council Secretariat was transferred to the Estates Department to assist in the management. His main duty is to see that the premises in the estates are kept clean and tidy and that no unauthorized persons living with the tenant's family in the Council accommodation.

By 1st August, six blocks of 7-storey flats consisting of 336 dwellings which were completed in different stages since January were fully occupied. This has brought to the completion of the whole housing scheme consisting of 532 dwellings made up of 40 terrace houses, 78 units of 3-storey 3-room flats, 78 units of 3-storey 2-room flats and 336 units of 7-storey 2-room flats. A mixed community of 2,441 persons were accommodated in these houses and flats.

When the first two blocks of the 7-storey flats were about to be ready for occupation, there was some anxiety as to whether the 7-storey flats would be fully occupied in view of the poor response to the notice calling for applications for this type of flats; the reason being that the people of Kuching are not accustomed to live on high storied flats.

It was after the first two blocks of the 7-storey flats were completed and occupied that the people began to appreciate this type of accommodation and applications began to pour in. Ultimately demand exceeded supply with a result that there were forty applicants who were not successful in securing accommodation when the last block of flats were allocated. These unsuccessful applicants were then put on the housing register for future vacancies.

Tenancies are allocated under a points system.

The rents for the three types of housing accommodation are as follows:-

Terrace house	\$61.00
3-room flat	\$52.00
2-room flat	\$39.00

The rents exclude the payment for light and water but include the payment for rates, service charges for communal lighting, lifts, cleaning of staircases and drains and maintenance of grounds.

In order to facilitate the management of the estate affairs and to improve the relationship between the tenants and the management staff through close contacts, the Estate Office was established in the estate and was opened for business on 1st October. The tenants have now only to walk across the road or the estate footpath to the Estate Office to report any matter that requires attention.

A force of then labourers consisting of mowers and sweepers who are under the supervision of a mandor is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the estate compound including the sweeping of the common staircases and balconies. The indiscriminate throwing of paper and rubbish onto the estate compound is showing a marked decrease in one section of the estate open space where refuse bins were provided as an experiment for use by the residents. More of these bins will be provided in other sections of the estate. Generally a high standard of tidiness is maintained throughout the estate.

FOR 1959

COUNCIL:

The town of Kuching has had the rare honour of being visited by His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 26th February, 1959.

The following is a resolution passed by the Council:

The Kuching Municipal Council formally records its welcome, with pride and gratitude, to the Royal Visitor in the person of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to Kuching, the Capital of Sarawak."

(K.M.C. minute No. 14/59)

His Royal Highness attended a special meeting of the Council Negri on 27th February, 1959, and later went on a tour of the town accompanied by the President of the Council, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan, C.B.E.

Communities of all races in Kuching gave His Royal Highness a warm reception. The town itself and the Malay Communal Reserves were gaily decorated with many splendid arches on the touring route. There were an exhibition of fireworks and an entertainment on the St. Thomas' playing field in the evening of the 26th February. His Royal Highness left Kuching' in a Heron aircraft of the Queen's Flight for Sibul on 27th February, 1959.

1959 saw the end of the three-year term of office of the first fully-elected Council on 30th November, 1959. With this came the end of the term of the President of the Council, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan, C.B.E. who had been President for the three consecutive years. At the inaugural meeting of the new Council which took place on 1st December, 1959, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. Ong Kee Hui was elected President of the Council and Cr. Stephen Kuet Tze Yong was re-elected Vice-President, for the Council year ending 30th November, 1960.

The attendance of Councillors throughout the year was regular. The only case where long period of absence was granted was to Cr. Dawi bin Abdul Rahman to enable him to take up a professional course of training in Australia.

ELECTION:

The General Elections of the Municipality of Kuching were held on Sunday, 15th November, 1959. This was the second general election conducted by the Council since it became a fully-elected body on 1st December, 1956.

The following comparative figures may be of interest:-

	1959	1956
	<i>Elections</i>	<i>Elections</i>
Date of election	15th Nov.	4th Nov.
Total number of registered voters	4,798	4,557
Total number of candidates	52	58
Percentage of votes cast	78.3	86.66
Total number of votes cast	9,864	10,290
Total number of candidates lost their deposit	1	5

For the purpose of the elections, legal machinery was applied to include the Pending peninsular in electoral Ward No. 9, prior to the area being formally taken over by the Council as from 1st January, 1960. This action resulted in an increase of some 300 voters in Ward 9.

There were some ninety-two objections received against omission of registration in the Register of Voters. Many of these cases were proved to be genuine omissions, and insertions in the Register were allowed by the Revising Officer.

For the first time since the enactment of the Local Government Elections (Scheduled Councils) Regulations, 1956, an election petition was heard in the High Court at Kuching in connection with the election of three Councillors in Market Ward in which two candidates were tied for third place. A fresh election for the Ward was held on 29th November, 1959.

The general elections of the Municipality of Kuching were conducted as smoothly and as satisfactorily as could be expected. No elections were held in respect of Ward no. 1 (Datu's) since there were only three candidates for the three vacancies. Out of twenty-seven old Councillors, fifteen were returned in the general elections. This, being a majority of Council, would ensure continuity of the Council's standing policies.

HOUSING:

Good progress was made during the year on the development of private housing estates at Batu Lintang Road, 21/2 Milestone Rock Road, and Green Road. A proposal to develop a large tract of land adjacent to the New Port Area at Pending Road for bazaar, godown and residential purposes was approved in principle by the Council. In addition, over fifty other applications for subdivision of land were dealt with by the Council. Consequent upon the development of the New Port Area at Pending Road, it is anticipated that there will be a need for more housing in the immediate vicinity. With this in mind it is hoped that private housing organisations would be interested in the development of housing estates in the Pending area.

The question of whether or not there is justification in embarking on another Municipal housing project is an open one, and in the absence of a detailed survey of the present housing position and its relative problems in the Municipal Area, the Council would undoubtedly approach this subject with reservation. Whatever further housing projects might be considered for the future, the following points, among others, appear to be pertinent:-

- a) The need for a central site close to places of work of those for whom the scheme is intended.
- (b) For most people with low income, detached dwellings are preferable to flats but the former are also expensive to build, since they require very much greater expanse of land, and would, in all probability be erected on sites far from places of their work.
- (c) The existing Municipal flats are beyond the reach of most of the class of people whom the Council had originally intended to house, e.g., cubicle dwellers in shophouses. There already exists, in fact, a subsidy in the present Municipal Housing Scheme.
- (d) At present the housing position in Kuching is generally considered satisfactory, and the indication is that more private housing projects are being developed in the suburban areas of the township.

It is hoped that some private enterprises would design a very much cheaper type of flats, and on a reasonably central site, so as to cater for the needs of cubicle dwellers in shophouses, thus contributing an important step towards the solution of the overcrowding problem in Kuching.

INDUSTRY:

In August the Council approved in principle a proposal to develop Crown Land behind the Padungan Bazaar for light industries. This scheme was to be participated by both the Borneo Development Corporation Limited and Sarawak Development Finance Corporation, and made provision for twenty-nine factory sites. There was an eagerness in the acquisition of these sites by the general public. At 11/2 Milestone, Rock Road, there was established a factory manufacturing shirts and singlets under the terms of the Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Ordinance.

BOUNDARIES:

The Municipal Area was extended as from 1st January, 1960 by the inclusion of the Pending Peninsular, which includes the New Port Area at Tanah Puteh. This was the result of the decision of a joint boundary committee set up in 1959 to study the question of Kuching Municipal Council/Kuching Rural District Council boundary.

By the application of legal machinery, the inhabitants of the area referred to above were

enfranchised for the general elections of the Municipality of Kuching held on 15th November, 1959, and the Council was authorised to carry out the preliminaries relating to rating during 1959 in order that rates may be imposed on the inhabitants of the pending area during 1960.

The Kuching Municipal Council has accepted the agreement in principle of the joint boundary committee that no further revision should be made to the Kuching Municipal Council/Kuching Rural District Council boundary for at least nine years.

MUNICIPAL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

ROADS:

The year 1959 saw an extensive programme of road reconstruction within the Municipality and, as a result, other authorities such as the Kuching Water Board and Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited were equally active in co-ordinating their programmes of works related to road reconstruction. The scheme to install underground electric cables and remove overhead mains in the bazaar area undertaken by the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited, had resulted in the disappearance of most of the concrete standards in the town area, and in the resiting of street lights mounted on steel poles on more advantageous positions. Generally an improved street lighting system for the town area had been achieved, which had justified Council's decision in the participation of the scheme with Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited.

The main road work undertaken and completed during the year was the reconstruction by Council of a further stretch of Rock Road, between Maxwell Road and Batu Lintang Road. This operation took approximately three months, and involved the removal of some eighty-nine graves which were located in the road reserve adjacent to a cemetery. Another major road reconstruction which was begun in 1959, but had not yet been completed was the reconstruction by Government of a stretch of Pending road between Sekama Road junction and Sungei Apong Road junction, in connection with the Port Development Scheme. This stretch of road would further be extended from Sekama Road junction to Central Road junction.

Other road works undertaken by Council included the construction of an 18-foot wide road along a section of the old race track, beginning from Sekama Road junction. This work was paid out of Government grant, and the road was vested in the Council on completion. Thomson Road was widened and realigned for better vision of traffic and to ease congestion. This work included the provision of a stretch of footpath on one side of the road. A section of Tabuan Road between junctions of Mathie's Road and McDougall Road was similarly widened to ease traffic congestion. Improvements were also made to access roads in the Malay Communal Reserves, some of these were raised above flood level.

The Council had accepted the responsibility of constructing access roads on Government's behalf for the area behind Padungan Bazaar which was being planned for industrial development. These roads, with a 36-foot carriageway, would be constructed to approved specification and vested in the Council.

The proposal to install automatic traffic lights at the junction of Rock Road/McDougall Road/Mosque Road had been approved by Council. This when installed would be the first of its kind in Kuching and may serve as a forerunner of many to come.

CONTRACTS:

Two major works had been completed during the year, namely: the Poultry Market is a single-storey block of eight classrooms for the Merpati Jepang Council School. The new Poultry Market is a single-storey building of re-inforced concrete structure with a steel roof truss. This building replaced the temporary poultry market on exactly the same site, and the cost complete with the provision of wire-meshed cages for the birds, amounted to approximately \$35,000.

HOUSING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

Since the Council has taken the initial steps of providing housing to the public, other private enterprises, e.g., the Dale Marden's Lintang Park, Wei Tah's Iris Garden and others have developed

housing estates for sale to the public. These projects have eased overcrowding, but they are out of the reach of people in the low income group, who live in overcrowded cubicles in shophouses. Overcrowding is, for Kuching, still a health and social problem.

The town of Kuching is fast developing in commerce and industry. It must be emphasised therefore, that proper zoning of areas for industries, planning for roads and drainage, and standard of buildings must be regarded as of paramount importance to the Council, since this is the only way to safeguard the standard of public health and sanitation of a development area.

HOUSING ESTATE DEPARTMENT

The 532 units of Council flats and terrace houses are fully tenanted, although there were a small number of persons vacating and occupying some of these premises in the course of the year. All in all 100 per cent rental was collected. Applications for housing accommodation are submitted on a standard form obtainable from the Council Estate Department at Ban Hock Road. There were eighty-three applicants on the waiting list as at 31st December, 1959. Investigation reports on these applications show that the need for rehousing is not urgent in practically all cases.

The Municipal housing estate at Ban Hock Road continued to be maintained in a satisfactory manner. The appearance of the estate's Sewerage Plant had been made pleasant consequent upon the planting of ornamental shrubs and flowers around its compound. The Sewerage Plant itself has been well maintained.

The wanton disregard of some tenants to the throwing of brush heads, some time dead crabs, into the manholes of the estate sewerage system had greatly subsided, and only few discoveries were made of solid objects choking the sewerage system.

The tenants continued to live as harmoniously as could be expected, and there were very few incidents of quarrel or fighting reported. The general standard of tidiness and hygiene in respect of the flats had been maintained to a satisfactory level.

The Council Housing Estate was honoured by the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 27th February, 1959. A plaque was erected at Flat No. 103 to commemorate His Royal Highness' visit to that flat.

BUILDINGS:

There were 455 building applications received during the year compared with 458 in 1958. Of these 429 were approved. Among the approved plans, 133 were new buildings, and the rest were repairs and alterations to existing buildings. The general tendency of the people of Kuching is that they are interested more in re-inforced concrete buildings than timber constructions. Normal maintenance and general improvements to Council's buildings were undertaken during the year.

PUBLIC HOUSING AND AMENITIES:

General improvements to the Council Housing Estate at Ban Hock Road were made during the year. 235 feet of stone retaining wall for the drain at the 7-storey block along Central Road were constructed. 560 feet of loose stone drain serving the housing estate along Ban Hock Road/Central Road were raised and repaired. 270 feet sub-soil pipes were laid to drain the water-logged open area fronting the terrace houses. 945 feet of concrete footpath, one re-inforced concrete footbridge and two concrete badminton courts were provided for the estate. In addition, some twenty-four bilian benches were provided in the grounds of the housing estate.

Some eight bus shelters were erected in the Municipal Area at points near bus termini and schools. Approval in principle was given by Council to the siting of a public swimming pool at the Jubilee Recreation Ground, Padungan Road.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited had completed erection of their new Power Station at Sungei Priok, Pending Road and the station itself is now in operation.

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL:

The Kuching Municipal Council gave a Farewell Party to His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Foster Abell, K.C.M.G., at the Jubilee Hall, Padungan Road, on the eve of his departure from Sarawak on retirement. Sir Anthony sailed from Kuching on 14th November, 1959.



Sir Anthony Warns New Political Leaders: Good Race Unity Must Be Maintained

K.M.C. Farewells Governor At Civic Dinner

The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell has warned the new political leaders that it is alright for them to strive for a more efficient, a more stable government, so long as they do not jeopardise Sarawak's progress and disrupt the good race relations.

Sir Anthony was speaking at a civic farewell dinner given by the Kuching Municipal Council at the Jubilee Hall, Padungan Road, last night.

Opening his address the Governor said he could not pretend that this was a very jolly occasion for him. In spite of the excellent dinner, the warm hospitality and the beautiful gift which was given to him, it was not much fun saying goodbye to friends and leaving a country where one had been happier than anywhere else in the world.

Happy memories

He said he would take away with him many happy memories of the generosity and kindness of the people of this country, rather blurred memories of the gay evenings in longhouses, the colour and open-hearted hospitality of Hari Raya, many a Chinese new year when the champagne flowed, as it never would again for him, like water before they put the rates up.

He said all of them had experienced the same sort of thing and they all inclined to take it for granted until they had to go elsewhere and leave the shores of Borneo.

Sir Anthony said it was very nearly ten years ago that he was appointed to the governorship of Sarawak and was asked to submit himself to the Colonial Office doctor. He said after a cursory glance the doctor asked him: "Is your digestion alright?" He said he replied "so far it had proved adequate in normal circumstances". To which he replied, "You will find that circumstances are not normal in Sarawak. What you will require is a cate iron constitution, an abestos stomach lining and hollow leg".

Clear eyes

"I think after ten years he was quite right," the Governor said. But, he added, I would say now that the new Governor would require very clear eyes which were not always easy to achieve in Sarawak, and a good deal younger eyes to see into the future.

"I came here at a time of importance to Sarawak. This country was recovering from the Japanese occupation but there was a god deal of political dissension and the people had to decide what to do about it. Were they going you kunckle down to the job of recovery for this country? Were they going to allow bitterness to rule? And in their typical Sarawak way they came to their decision quietly but with determination with the results which we see around us today," Sir Anthony said. He said he was leaving at a time when, and might be, he believed, another turning point in Sarawak's history.



Tribune pictures shows Sir Anthony (left) receiving a parting gifts from the president of the Kuching Municipal Council at the Civic Dinner at the Jubilee Hall last Saturday evening.

Decision must be made

“The same sort of decision has to be made and it can only be made honestly and fearlessly by the people of this country. There are many good and sincere people who feel we are not going fast enough and that an acceleration in the educational process towards self-government is due, and they are forming associations to give strength to their views.

“That is quite right and proper. This is a natural and healthy development which no one can or would deny, but the pace at which we proceed in these matters is one of concern not only to us in Kuching who are relatively educated, but also to every citizen throughout the length of the country.

Governor's Message To Political Leaders

Party Politics

“Party politics have taken a hold in certain places, and once they get started the past has shown that they usually come to stay.”

He said now the people of this country had a decision to make and he felt that they should make it clear for a start to the new political leaders that “it is alright for them to strive for a more efficient, a more representative and a more stable government; if they can achieve that with party politics that is excellent. That is what we all want. The people of Sarawak are not going to allow a breach of the old friendly traditions of this country. This country has gone a long way in the last hundred years; it has worked out itself a way of life which it has found to be satisfactory and the envy of others.

“What the people must clearly show is that they are going to allow our progress to be jeopardised and our happiness threatened by ideas borrowed from elsewhere, not clearly understood and may be of doubtful benefit to us.”

Adat Lama

He said he remembered when he came here and wherever he travelled the people wanted to know if he would follow “the adat lama”, the traditions of this country. He said he would do so and he believed that he had done his best to do so. He said he did not think it was too much to ask now that the people of this country should also follow their own traditions, the traditions of kindness and friendliness.

Sir Anthony said he had been reported to be against politics and politicians. That was not so, he said. He said he was not a politician and never would be, but he understood their ambitions and respect most of their motives.

He said that they had a part to play in this country and he thought they had come to stay.

He said: “I only ask in Sarawak that they should not for the sake of personal ambitions undermine or destroy the character of a country we all love and try to serve.”

Not Easy

He said he knew that it was not easy to find a quick and satisfactory solution to these problems; other countries had to face the same sort of dilemma and had on occasion reached the wrong solution by taking it in due haste, and by allowing the issue to be fogged by the ambitions of individuals, and, who took a natural wish to demonstrate to the world their own political sophistication.

He said he had confidence that Sarawak in its own good time would find the solution to these problems as it would to other difficult problem she had to face because, he said, he believed the people here had two very great assets.

“Firstly, there is our such talked-of happy race relations. This is a fact, in spite of the over-emphasis is placed on it from travellers from neighbouring countries where it is absent.

“Some of our neighbours have, I believe, lost this asset and are trying hard, rather late in the day, to get it back because they know, and must remember that, if you are born in a plural society as we are, there is no alternative except disintegration or domination by one race.”

He said this vital asset was rather precariously poised on foundations which were showing the unmistakable signs wear and tear. "It is up to us to realise that fact and each one of us to do what we can to repair those foundations before the whole structure totters and falls to our heels," he said.

"It is not sufficient to blame other people when it is too late. It is not sufficient to say that is an old trick of the British, they've done it before. They divide people by stressing racial differences. We know, all of us, that is indeed poppycock."

Sir Anthony said it was his greatest desire and the Government's most urgent task to foster the best possible race relations in the country and to preserve and strengthen racial unity because without them this country could not prosper, and he knew his and government's mission would have failed.

Second great asset

"Our second great asset to my mind is this: there is a sound commonsense in the people of this country which refuses to allow them to be bamboozled by the Government or by any other disturbing innovator without a very careful scrutiny of their credentials and intentions. I believe that the people of Sarawak want to go forward as much as anybody else but they are a bit conservative and cagey and want to see their way clearly and they want to know where they are being led," he said.

The Governor said these two assets were vital to Sarawak's future and would stand the people in good stead if they sustained them today. He said Sarawak had made considerable progress since the war because of the determination and hardwork of the people of this country and because they had on the whole received a good return for their industry and because they had a stable government.

Stable government

He said: "You in Sarawak will have a stable government as long as you allow these two assets to rule events: good race relations and sound commonsense which are expressed in terms of national and civil responsibility."

Addressing his hosts he said they had clearly shown during their term of office the application and the practice of these assets to the business of local government.

"You have worked as a team under your able and wise President. You can be proud of your achievements and the services you have given to the people of Kuching, you can be proudest of all of the example you have shown to the people of Sarawak in your soundest judgement's and in fairness of your decisions which are unsullied by any taint of partisanship."

He said the Municipal elections drew near and he hoped everyone, the electors and candidates, would conduct themselves as they did on the list occasion with their traditional dignity and sense of fair play.

He said he hoped the public of Kuching would show their good sense that they did in 1956 and give this city a ruling body of upright and devoted citizens who would do credit to the capital of a country which "is a pleasant and as promising a land as any I have seen."

Earlier, the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, speaking on the occasion said during the nine years that Sir Anthony had been the Queen's representative in Sarawak he had exerted himself unsparingly in travelling the country and making personal contact with the people.

Mr. Tan said: "Despite your onerous duties you have nevertheless found time to show a close interest in the affairs of this Council. In December 1956 you addressed us at the first ordinary meeting of the then newly established fully elected Council and we have ever since benefited from your encouragement."

He said the Kuching Municipal Councillors were also nearing the end of their term of office, and on November 15 - the day after the Governor leaves Sarawak - the electors of Kuching would go to the polls to "pass their verdict" on the Councillors.

Steady progress

"This is no place for election speeches," Mr. Tan added, "but I think may say that during our period of office this Council has made steady progress and has done its best to further the well-being of the citizens of Kuching."

“This town is growing steadily, and in keeping up with the rate of progress presents, and will continue to present, many problems. However, we can justly say that the Municipality of Kuching, capital of Sarawak, is no disgrace to the country.

“Though we are so happy to have you with us tonight, it is a pleasure tinged with sadness at the thought that you will be leaving us in two weeks’ time.

Good wishes

“No one will deny that you deserve a rest after nine years of unsparing service to Sarawak, and we wish you many years of health and leisure to do the things for which you have not previously had time. You leave us not only as a respected Governor, but is a well love friend.”

Mr. Tan later, on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Kuching, presented to Sir Anthony a parting gift in the form of a cigar box, made from a Sarawak timber ‘Nyireh’ and embossed with the Coat of Arms of the Municipality as a pleasant reminder of his say in Sarawak.

The dinner was attended by more than one hundred people including the wives of councillors and guests.

Earlier the Loyal Toast was proposed by Mr. William Tan before making his address. The Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Stephen Kuet Tze Yong proposed the toast to the Governor who later proposed the toast to the K.M.C.

THE CANS AND CANT'S

Voters Qualifications Clarified

WE are officially informed that any person whose name does not appear in the Register of voters (which is now available for inspection in the Municipal Office) and who considers that he is eligible to vote in the forthcoming elections should make immediate application to have his name entered.

The vast majority of residents within the Municipal area will have no difficulty in deciding whether or not they are eligible to vote but there may be some uncertainty in the case of persons occupying a part of premises for which they pay no rent and eligibility to vote must be decided on the circumstances of each case.

The provisions of the Elections Ordinance do not exclude from voting a person who pays no rent but who is in lawful occupation and control of part or premises which is assessed at a monthly rental of \$5.00 or more. The guiding principle in deciding whether such person is in lawful occupation and control is "does he maintain his own clearly defined establishment distinct and separate from the rest of the premises".

A person who occupies a bedroom and shares all the amenities of a house, living rooms, meals and similar facilities, is not in lawful occupation and control of part of premises and accordingly is not entitled to vote.

A person who occupies a clearly defined part of a house and has his own separate establishment there is, however, in control of part of premises as defined in the Ordinance and is entitled to vote.

Where there is no physical barrier or partition which serves to give clear definition to the separate establishment, then the Registration Officer could not enter the occupier's name in the voters' register without strong evidence that the establishment was, in fact, a separate one and that the occupier enjoyed full control over it.

The definition of occupier excludes, amongst others, members of the family but where a clearly defined separate establishment had been set up, the occupier would not be disqualified from voting on the grounds that he is a member of the family which occupies the remainder of the house.

The foregoing relates to occupiers of parts or premises for which no rent is paid; an occupier must, of course, comply with all the other qualifications which seem to be well understood, but for the convenience of the electorate, they are briefly recapitulated:-

- (1) The voter must be twenty-one years of age OR be married and in regular paid employment.
- (ii) The voter must be and have been, during the previous six months, the occupier of premises assessed at an annual value of \$60.00 or more (the premises need not be rateable property) OR the occupier of part of premises for which he pays not less than \$5.00 a month or which are assessed to be worth that amount.

The Registration Officer is available at the Municipal Office to discuss with members of the public any doubtful points concerning their eligibility to vote and it is hoped that there will be no hesitation in seeking advice. A Revising Officer will later be appointed to hear claims from members of the public that they are entitled to vote but have not been included in the registration of voters.

Elected Roll Blosses Today

Don't Expect Overnight Change: Fisher

A report on the progress made by the Kuching Municipal elections was given by the Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. J.C.B. Fisher at a press conference held in the Municipal office on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Fisher expressed great satisfaction in the response that has been forthcoming from prospective candidates. He recalled what he had spoken at a previous conference, that he Municipality faced two headaches in the forthcoming elections - candidates and voters. The first headache has been overcome, for all the wards now can be certain of election. The Chairman voiced the hope that there would be the same response from the voters.

"I would certainly like to see more Malay candidates coming forwards", Mr. Fisher continued, "so that there can be proper representation."

The Kuching public are reminded that the electoral roll now open for public examination in the Municipal office will be officially closed on 27th September after which date no claims to be registered as a voter can be entertained. Mr. Fisher disclosed that so far some 200 people have looked at these rolls and taken away application forms. None have asked for forms to lodge protest against registered voters.

A friendly word of advice to prospective candidates with regard to the elections campaign was also given by the Chairman. He was obviously referring to promises that candidates would make in election speeches. "I must say that the present Councillors are a very hard working team and have served the Council well for four years that they can almost be regarded as veterans. There is still much to be done and there will always be a task before us but the real problem that faces us is that of finance. Without adequate financial resources it is not possible to accomplish all that we want to do whether in this or the new Council.

"We cannot expect to see an overnight change and expansion in Kuching following the inauguration of the new Council, but of one thing I am certain; we shall be having a first class representation of the people who will doubtless bring with them new blood and fresh ideas. This is an opportunity for the people to choose for themselves the people whom they want apathetic and then later find that they do not like what the Council is doing then they have only themselves to blame."

Mr. Fisher then touched on the subject of the song Kheng Hai Recreation Ground and said that a great deal of money had been spent on reconditioning it. It requires a few more months to settle down and until then public utilisation of it would cause serious damage that would make the heavy expenditure on it to no avail. The Council, Mr. Fisher said, has also major projects like Grandstand and a Swimming Pool under consideration but no decision has been taken now as the present Council does not wish to commit the new Council into any projects that may cause embarrassment.

On the subject of felling trees the Chairman said that recently a thinning out process had been going on but these measures had been taken jointly with SESCo and the Forestry Department, and all trees felled were with the advice of the Forestry Department.

First Kuching Municipal Elections

An Unqualified Success.

With a total of eighty per cent of the estimated 5,600 voters in the "Kuching Municipal area turning out at the polling stations yesterday to elect their representatives for the 27 seats in the Kuching Municipal Council, this first free elections of the Council must be recorded as an unqualified success. The people of Kuching, who have been now and then accused of apathetic truly turned out in full force to prove how wrong this allegation had been.

An overcast sky with a slight drizzle at dawn threatened the day with a long period of unwelcome rain, but to those who know Kuching and its unpredictable weather well, there was little concern about this, and it turned out to be so, for soon after nine the sky cleared and by that time some thirtyfive per cent of the voters were already either at the polling booths or on their way there.

Brisk polling was reported at all polling booths, particularly those at the Bazaar and Market where surrounded by shophouses with sheltered five-foot ways there was really no great inconvenience experienced by the voters. The Returning Officer, the Presiding Officers, their assistants, Polling assistants and other officials in connection with duties at the polling stations were early at their posts.

Radio Sarawak opened the day's programme at 7 a.m. with a day-long broadcast on the election proceedings interspersed by music. The travelling unit of the Broadcasting Service toured the polling booths, giving on the spot broadcast of proceedings including, personal interviews.

The keynote of the day's events was the orderly manner in which the public went to the polls. In most stations the peak hour of the crowd centred between 8.30 and 10.30 a.m., while at a few boots people came in a steady stream, in spite of the rain. In the kampongs, the voters came out of their homes early with umbrellas, slendaks and other covering while at one or two stations voters were already waiting outside before time.

In the morning session, men voters appeared to have out numbered women. Not only the healthy came to the stations. At the polling booth at Central Road, there was quite a number of very old people and some of them had to be helped tot he station. Polling assistants at times had to explain they did not meet with any particularly difficult case.

In almost every polling station at least one of the candidates seeking election was present. Subward B of Ward 8, (the Masonic Lodge) was the only ward the rush hour of which was different from the others - 12.30 p.m. Most of the other wards had their rush hour in the early the day was at the lunch hour.

Events moved towards the climax later in the evening when with the signal of the gunfire from Fort Margherita at 6 o'clock to mark the closing of the polling stations' the ballot boxes were transferred to the Kuching Municipal offices where the counting began.

Earlier the Sarawak Constabulary Band, which had been moved from its usual Sunday pitch at the Museum Grounds to the Municipal Park, performed under a specially erected tent. This entertainment and added attraction started to draw the crowds which swelled after dusk at the central padang and outside the Municipal officers to hear the results of the day's polling.

The Municipal offices, gaily decorated with Union Jacks and bunting was a hive of activity as ballot boxes from all the stations started to come in after six o'clock under police escort.

Fairy lights hung on two big tress at the corner of the Central Padang lit up after dusk and the Municipal building was floodlit. Fine weather encouraged the crowds to stay on. Cars lined the road-sides across the padang and by seven o'clock the numbers swelled to enormous proportion. Candidates and their counting assistants watched the counting which began shortly after 6.30 p.m. The first result was announced at 8.15 p.m. and the final result was made known at 8.45 p.m.

New Council Takes Over Today

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

HISTORY will be made in the Kuching Municipal Council today as the first freely-elected Council meets for the first time at 9 o'clock this morning. It will also be the last time that the Council will be presided over by a Chairman, for there after all Council meetings will be presided over by a President.

The 27 elected Councillors who have been returned in the 9 wards constituting the Kuching Municipal area, at the first free Municipal elections held on November 4, will sign the forms of declaration accepting office, under Section 5(2) of the Kuching Municipal Ordinance.

Mr. J.C.B. Fisher, the outgoing Chairman of the Council will then address the Councillors and this will be followed by the election of Vice-President takes place after this.

The Municipal Secretary, Mr. C.E. Sandbach is expected to announce his communications.

The constitution of Standing Committee follows next on the agenda and when this is completed the Council will fix the date for the ordinary meeting of the Council in December. Hitherto Council meetings have been on the last Tuesday of each month. It will be up to the new Council to consider whether the meeting date should be changed or to be followed as usual.

Members of the new Council are:

Ward 1: Messrs. Dawi bin Abdul Rahman, Mohamad bin Haji Bakri, Ikhwan bin Abang, Haji Zainie.

Ward 2: Haji M. Su'ut Tahir, Mr. Ahmed Zaidi Adruce, Haji M. Rambli bin Haji Leman.

Ward 3: Messrs. William Tan, Teo Kui Seng, Mrs. Kong Yu Siung.

Ward 4: Henry Ong Kee Chuan, John Lee Nyuk Syn, Ee Ghim Yam.

Ward 5: Messrs. Law Heng Choon, Fang Kuan Lin, Chin Poh Luke.

Ward 6: Messrs. Lo Foot Kee, Song Thian Cheok, Ong Kee Hui.

Ward 7: Messrs. Tan Tak Seng, Song Thian Ho, Goh Hong Kee.

Ward 8: Messrs. Stephen Yong Kuet Tze, Shii Dai Seng Francis Tan Eng Chong.

Ward 9: Messrs. Yeo Cheng Hoe, Chan Siaw Hee, Sim Joo Sek.

Mr. William Tan



Candidate For Ward
3, Satok South.

Mr. William Tan has the privilege and honour to stand as a candidate of ward 3, Satok South. A son of Sarawak, he has seen this place grow from an insignificant fairy tale country into one of the most peaceful and thriving countries in the East.

He is a Council Member of the A.T.A.S.; a Life and Executive Member of the British Red Cross Society; Member of the Motor Licensing Authority; Director of the Sarawak Steamship Company; Member of the Loans to Aided Schools Committee; Director of the Sarawak Press as well as being a member of several other committees.

He believes that we in Sarawak are in the unique position of having people of various nationalities and religions, closely knitted together and all with one common aim, and religions, closely knitted together and all with one common aim, and one aim only, and that is to make Sarawak a thriving country fit for our children to live in.

He is at your service and will gladly endeavour to put into effect your wishes within our means and jurisdiction. He said: "There is no maternity hospital, welfare clinics and inadequate playing fields in this town. We owe these to our children so that they may have a healthy outlet for the expression of their youth.

"We require more flats and at rentals that will suit the pockets of the average wage-earner. In fact we should encourage housing schemes or housing estates in order to bring down rentals and overcrowded areas.

"We need more and better roads so that Kuching will be a leading and model Capital in this island of Borneo, and your cooperation is required to carry out this scheme.

"You have a sacred right - a vote for your choice of candidate. Your candidate must be a man of the highest integrity and unselfishness. Use that right wisely and vote for the candidate who will best serve your interests. May I humbly venture to suggest that I be given the opportunity to serve you. I shall give off my best to you at all times when elected. In your hand now lies the destiny of this country."

Ong Kee Hui



*Candidate Ward 6,
Bazaar.*

Mr. Ong Kee Hui, age 43, Bank Manager, Secretary and Director of Wee Kheng Chiang Company Limited, born at Kuching and educated at St. Thomas's School, Kuching, St. Andrew's School, Singapore, and College of Agriculture, Serdang, Malaya, is seeking election for Ward 6, Bazaar.

The following is a translation of his election address (in Hokkien) over Radio Sarawak:-

November the 4th will be a very memorable day in the history of Sarawak, because on that day will have an important bearing on the future political development of Sarawak.

I am a Councillor in the present Kuching Municipal Council and at the same time a member of the Council Negri. The present Kuching Municipal Council's tenure will expire at the end of this year and thereafter Councillors will be those elected by the people. I thought that with the expiration of the tenure of office of the present Council I should retire with a number of my colleagues. However a number of the citizens of Kuching who are friends of mine have repeatedly asked me to continue to serve the people. In the face

of such sincere goodwill it is difficult to refuse and I have therefore decided to seek re-election. Although the coming elections is the first one to be held here the number of candidates are by no means small. I think that the fact that there are so many more prepared to give up their time and their energy in the spirit of service to the community is a very good augury.

During my tenure of office for the past three years as a Municipal Councillor I have gained a little experience. I feel that during the past few years although the Council cannot claim to have achieved great results, we can in fairness say that in a number of directions we have given satisfaction to the people of Kuching. For instance in the field of road development in housing, health and education when we look back to the prewar days and to the immediate post war period we can in all conscience say we have made considerable progress. This a statement which the citizens of Kuching can see themselves and there is no need for me to say anything more about it, I must now depend on the Councillors elected by the people to make ever greater progress.

I would now like to say a few words on my own personal impressions and my ideals.

In the first place, I strongly hope that in the political field there will be unity. Kuching is a town in which diverse races live together. It is impossible to improve the Municipal Administration unless there is unity. Unity increase strength. Unity raises morale. Unity Chinese community but must include all races, who should as a prime requisite in an efficient local government work together without reservation. Secondly, the general economy must be improved. Kuching is an entrepot through which past the imports and exports of 1st and 2nd Divisions. It is in other words a business centre and a business centre's prosperity is linked directly with that of the producing areas which is serves. If we only direct our attention towards the producing areas with a view to raising product economy of these places, then naturally it will follow that industry and commerce in the town will also improve. Thirdly, with regard the revenue we would avoid increasing the burden of the citizen. The source of depends partly on rates paid by the citizens and partly on grants in aid from the Central Government, and Councillors must exercise the greatest care over the expenditure of these public funds. According to my own information the present burden of the citizens of Kuching are up to capacity and in my view we should take care to keep expenditure within revenue by additional taxation to meet unnecessary expenditure. I cannot therefore make a lot of promises to my voters.

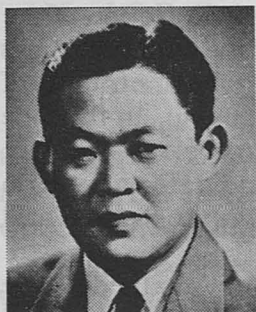
All that I can promise you is that I will serve you to the best of my ability and within the financial capacity of the people of Kuching I will work honestly and sincerely for your welfare. Fourthly, in the sphere of social services it is only right and proper that we aim at improving the amenities for the people of Kuching. The hope of every citizen is a life of comfort and prosperity. To a large extent their life is affected for better or for worse by the efficiency or otherwise of the Municipal Government. For instance if the costs of essential commodities required in our daily life are too high and the middlemen's profits are unreasonable because the price paid by the consumers differs too widely from that paid to the producers the producers the citizens are very badly off. With regard to shelter, the citizens lot can be improved by continuing the construction of suitable low cost houses for renting out to them. With regard to traffic, roads can be improved and modern roads constructed which will reduce accidents and facilitate transport. All these can be done by an efficient government to give the people comfort and pleasure without calling on them to pay too much.

In conclusion, I would like to say just a few more words. The coming Municipal Councillors will have a very important role. According to the New Constitution, the Kuching Municipal Councillors

will elect one of the councillors to be a member of the Council Negri.

Kuching Municipal Council will also elect five Councillors to be members of the First Division advisory Council. The first Division Advisory Council will elect six of their members to be members of Council Negri. The Municipal Councillor will therefore not only have the direct responsibility of running the local government but will also be indirectly concerned with the political development and welfare of the country as a whole. It is my earnest hope therefore that on election day not only will every citizen who as a vote take part and exercise his right to vote, but in voting will only vote for those who have the ability, strength of character, and can speak and work for the people to be their Councillors.

Song Thian Cheok



*Candidate For
Ward 6, Bazaar.*

Mr. Song Thian Cheok who is 43 years old, was educated at St. Thomas's School in Kuching and Anglo-Chinese School in Singapore. He is the seventh son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Song Kheng Hai. He holds the position of Manager, Messrs. McAlister & Co., Ltd.

Known for his keen interest in the welfare of the public, frankness and sincerity, Mr. Song is seeking the forthcoming Kuching Municipal elections. A member of the present Municipal Council, he pledges if he is returned, he would continue to serve the general public in Kuching Municipality, and particularly the constituents in his ward.

Ee Ghim Yam



*Candidate For
Ward 4.*

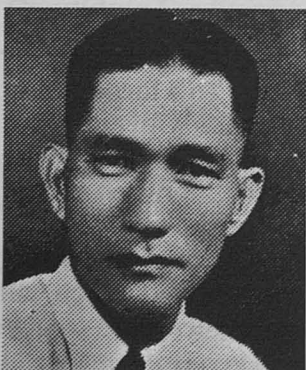
Ee Ghim Yam, aged 37, who was educated in St. Thomas' School, Kuching, is an executive and Director of The Sarawak Press Ltd. In social and sporting activities, he holds the capacity of Hon. Treasurer of the Sarawak Union Club and a Council Member of the Sarawak Amateur Athletic Association.

If elected, he pledges with most sincere and honest efforts to make his services available to all his constituents as well as the community in general. But, before giving his intentions of what he will do as a councillor, he would like, first and foremost, to express his opinion on a certain point, and that is, he does not intend to commit himself with big promises in order to obtain the electors' support. Because in doing so, he frankly thinks that it is an act of insincerity and falsehood.

Therefore, his primary duty is to find out the actual revenue of the Kuching Municipal Council and also to try his utmost best to find the best means of raising financial resources and where necessary to improve such public services as education; the welfare of the people in general; transport and health services; construction, cleansing and maintenance of roads; collection and disposal of refuse, etc. which come directly under the jurisdiction of the Council.

Lastly and most important is his determination to carry out a firm policy based on the principles of impartiality, priority and honesty.

Sim Joo Sek



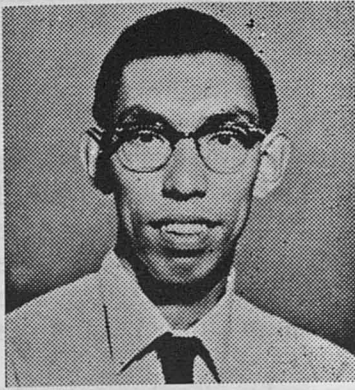
*Candidate For Ward 9
East.*

Mr. Sim Joo Sek, is a Sarawakian. By profession he is a sawmiller, building constructor and general commission agent. He is the Managing Director of the Lundu Sawmill Co., Ltd., Managing Partner of Kuching Timber Store and Sim Ah Tuah & Co., and also the first candidate to file his nomination papers for Ward 9, East.

If elected he pledges with most sincere and honest efforts to make his services available to all his constituents as well as the community in general during the period of his service in that capacity.

He advises the voters: Please vote carefully and wisely, choose the candidates whom you trust will work for the benefit of the people in ward 9, East in particular, and the Municipal Council in general. Do not have communal feelings in your voting, for all races should live in harmony in all wards.

Shii Dai Seng



For Ward 8 Central.

Shii Dai Seng, aged 26, a teacher of Chung Hua Middle School, Kuching and has been a teacher for many years.

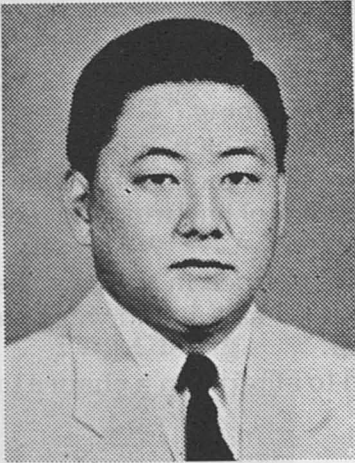
He is one of the early members of the Kuching Youth Club and plays a very active part in the welfare of the club.

Mr. Shii is a practical, responsible and energetic young man full of initiative. He is very kind to everybody, especially has a great sympathy for the poor and a love for children and youth. He is extremely interested in the welfare of commoners and the development of the Kuching Municipality as well as the whole of Sarawak. He is always ready to help anybody who comes to him for help.

If elected, he promises to do, within his ability and power, anything worthwhile for the people. He proposes to have more primary schools in various places, more remission of fees in the primary schools with the free-compulsory primary education as its ultimate end, and many other things. He stresses that we should have more and better roads, better housing schemes than the present ones, more public recreation grounds, clinic and clubs for the mothers and the children and the children respectively and also community centres.

Mr. Shii is delivering his second election speech about the K.M.C Election at 6 p.m. on Sunday, 23rd. September, 1956, in front of Mr. Then En Fook's house at Central Road East. Supporters, well-wishers, friends and all are warmly welcome.

Mr. John Lee Nyuk Syn.



Mr. John Lee Nyuk Syn, age 33, born in Singapore, is a representative of Messrs. A, Wander (Ovaltine) Limited for Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo. He is the first Candidate to file his Nomination Papers for Ward 4, Rock. Below is an extract of what he said in his broadcast in Radio Sarawak on 25th, Thursday.

"All of us can think of projects which will cost millions of dollars but such will have to come out of the Tax-payers' own pockets, which we all know. So the closest co-operation between the Tax-payers and the elected councillors is therefore very necessary, to explore ways and means to float the capital and use the money wisely. It will be of no use if you have the best councillors and no money, and on the other hand, if you have the money with councillors to fling it on experiments which is worse. Before we think of huge projects let us not forget the thousand and one minor works which are awaiting immediate attention such as: cleaning the town, changing of lamp-bulbs to florescent lightings, better drainage to dry up wet and marshy residential areas, paying and repair to some really bad stretches of roads, especially those in town, light up dark areas and other small works which will make the town brighter and healthier."

With the kind and strong support of the voters in Ward 4, if elected by them, Mr. Lee pledges to work hard and will no doubt do everything that is possible, to the best of his knowledge and ability, for the common good of the people. He carries the slogan "Miracles impossible, but will try the impossible".

Henry Ong Kee Chuan



Candidate Ward 4,
Rock.

Henry Ong Kee Chuan, aged 32 comes from a family which is closely associated with Sarawak for more than 100 years. He is a grandson of the late Mr. Ong Tiang Swee. In accordance with his family tradition of service to the community he has now come forward to serve the people. He was educated in St. Thomas' School, Singapore. He is the Secretary of the Sarawak Turf Club and a Director of the Sarawak Press Ltd.

If elected, he will endeavour to serve his constituency (or Ward) and the people of Kuching honestly, sincerely and to the best of his ability. He will carefully study the revenue and resources of the Municipal Council and the expenditure of the Council, including all projects under its jurisdiction. He will ensure that the tax-payers' money, whether directly collected by the Council or by Government Grants, is spent wisely and for the benefit of the people.

Henry Ong is anxious that the amenities for the people of Kuching should be improved but believes that they wealth amongst the average that grandiose schemes are all very well so long as they do not involve increase any excessive taxation for the people. He believes that efforts should be first directed towards improvements of the standard of living by schemes designed at improving the economy of the country as a whole from which the people of Kuching will ultimately benefit.

Mr. Teo Kui Seng



Candidate For Ward 3.

Mr. Teo Kui Seng, until recently Manager in Sibu Office of The Sarawak Steamship Co., Ltd, now transferred to Head Office, Kuching, offers his service to act as the mouthpiece of Ward 3 in the coming elected Municipal Council.

Being born in Kuching he believes it is his solemn duty to serve his birth place and if elected will strive earnestly to make Kuching a model town.

He is a firm believer in "Healthy body, healthy mind:", and will work untiringly for more playing fields and recreational amenities being provided for the benefit of the population of Kuching.

Low cost housing scheme is another project in which he holds very strong views, and he will do his utmost to see that more flats and low-cost houses are carefully planned with the view of ensuring that the rentals suit the purses of wage earners.

Having served in the Kuching Municipal Council in the past, he believes this experience will stand him in good stead, and will go a long way toward guiding him to work for the common good of one and all.

He therefore invites the voters in Ward 3 to give him their support and to afford him a chance to serve them conscientiously, untiringly and honestly.

Dawi Bin Abdul-Rahman



Candidate For
Ward 1 - Datu's.

Dawi bin Abdul-Rahman was born on 11th February, 1920 at Kuching. He received his education at the Maderasah Melayu and St. Joseph's Schools, Kuching.

He is the ex-President of the Pegerakan Pemuda Melayu Insaf (PPMI)-Malay Progressive Youth Movement, Kuching, Certificated Lecturer in First Aid (British Red Cross Society, Kuching) and Committee member of the Board of Management of Merpati Jepang School, Kuching.

His activities over social services are valuable. His kindness and tact to the people irrespective of races and creeds are very much appreciated.

If elected he will try, to the best of his ability, to see that the interest and welfare of the people should be respected.

Ngui Ah Shin



Candidate For Ward 8.

Mr. Stephen K.T. Yong LLB (Hons), Barrister At Law



Candidate For
Ward 8.

Francis Tan Eng Chong



Candidate Ward 8,
Central,

Mr. Ngui Ah Shin is an authorised Auditor and Insurance Agent; Member of First Division Land Development Tribunal and a Member of the Board of Visitors to General Hospital.

He was a Member of the Kuching Municipal Board for many years and one of the first Members of the Chinese Advisory Board.

He is a practical man, and if elected, he promises to do all he can for the benefit of the people in the Municipality, to explore new resources, to see that taxpayers' money is being properly spent, to work continuously for the improvement of roads, dangerous bends, street lighting, town cleansing, drainages, transport, health, low-cost housing scheme and other public services within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Council.

He firmly thinks it is unwise to make wild promises with no hope of fulfilling them.

Mr. Yong has been a School teacher, shop keeper, insurance and shipping agent before taking up law.

Being born in Simunjan, Sadong he understands Malay and Sea Dayak and having been educated in Chinese and English schools he is familiar with Chinese and English languages. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1953 and was called to the bar the same year. He feels that with his training he may be of some use to the Council. He is sincere and outspoken. He says that, it has been pointed out that in countries where representatives are firstly elected to public bodies by popular votes, corruption or graft always seem to set in and he says that, if elected, he will see to it that the plague of corruption of graft shall not appear in the Kuching Municipal Council and that unnecessary red tape be modified or abolished. He will insist upon the Council to be reasonable in making any decision to raise any taxation or spend the public funds. In dealing with Council matters he will be guided by the sense of reasonableness, sincerity and integrity. He hopes that voters in Ward 8 in which he resides will elect him.

He is a Managing Partner of the Rex Bookstore, Khoo Hun Yeang Street, Kuching.

Apart from being a popular and promising young businessman Mr. Tan also take an active part in social work in Kuching and holds the following honorary positions: Vice-President, Sarawak Junior Chamber of Commerce; Hon. Secretary, Kuching Parish Council; Asst. Hon. Secretary, Sarawak Union; Committee Member, Sarawak Music society and a Member, St. Mary's School Advisory Board.

Mr. Tan Says "I agree that when the Council in future should need to expand some of its services and starting on new projects it is just as important to be able to find practical ways and means of meeting such demands.

"However, the essential down-to earth needs of many ordinary people should be met without much difficulty.

"In Ward 8 Central, here are some of the problems which I have discovered from interviews and discussions with a cross section of the people there.

"There are no bus service on the major roads. Workers and school children have to walk long distances to bus stops at other roads. Thus also housewives have to do their marketing with hawkers having a small range of goods for which prices are usually marked up.

"In many parts in this area off the main roads there are clusters of poor dwellings where regular Health Services are badly needed.

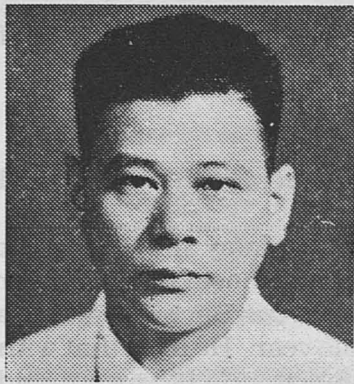
"The ever present problem of housing shortage remains acute for many who must still continue

to live in unauthorised and insanitary cubicles and huts. The rents for the new Municipal flats are too high for them to bear.

"More safety measures should be introduced on the roads with the alarming increase of traffic.

"Other problems will rise from time to time and Councillors will face some inevitably difficult tasks. If I am made a Councillor I would invite those of you in this Ward not to hesitate to bring to me your problems, requests and enquiries concerning the Services of the Council. I would also welcome your constructive so that benefited from these and by co-operating in good faith with the other Councillors to work for the good of all, I believe most of our problems can be solved."

Chin Poh Luke



Candidate For Ward 5, Market Friends and residents of Ward 5, you all know that the government had bought our SESCO. Ltd. from United Engineers Lt. share-holder some years ago. There was a suggestion made by the Development secretary to remove the present Power Station Engine Room to Sungei Priok, the earmark in order to produce cheap electricity by expanding the Power Engine to many folds. If such plan was carried out the consumers not only in Ward 5 benefited but also the rest of the 8 wards would enjoy the same.

40 years ago we had an engine running with less than 100 H.P. now we have 450 H.P. engine humming, vibrating, blacksmoking around the thickest populated and busiest town area effecting Gartak, India, Market, K. Hun Yeang Streets, Gambier Road, and particularly Ban Hock Lane. Monotonous vibration, incessant humming sounds and constant Diesoline smoke produced, are the terrific agony of the residents around there days and nights.

We have been repeatedly warned by the doctors of the world black smokes produced by diesoline oil caused lung cancers. This is one of the health points of Ward 5.

I shall be prepared to bring up this problem with the new Council's agenda and appeal to the new Councillors:-

1. If, possibly to take over the present SES Co. from Government and run by the Council.
2. To ease the terrific agony of the residents around there for forty years by removing the engine from Power Street to Sungei Priok.
3. To increase the Power by many folds with larger H.P. Engine to bring down the cost of Electricity produced so that all consumers can enjoy a cheap lighting unit. If I am elected.

The present housing scheme in Ban Hock Road is pretty attractive to those who have an average income of \$600/- as assessed by the Chairman of K.M.C. Kuching, you majority of tenants in Kai Joo Lane and Ban Hock Lane, are shopassistants, stallholders, hawkers, wharf-labourers and fishmongers, recommended to move to Ban Hock Road new flats to ease yourselves, may I ask how many of you can wish to stay in the new flats with a monthly rent of \$61/- excluding water supply and lighting purposes.

Fan Kuan Lin



Candidate Ward 5-
Market

Born and educated in Kuching, Mr. Fang Kuan Lin has been many years a school teacher and trader.

He is a public-spirited person and generally well liked. He has been the Honorary Treasurer of the Sarawak Council for adult Education, Kuching, since 1953.

In the coming Kuching Municipal Council Elections he is nominated to stand for Ward 5-Market. He deems this a great honour and considers it a good opportunity of serving the public in yet another field.

He tells the Sarawak Tribune that he will exert his utmost, if elected, to solve the problems of the public and to promote their interests and welfare.

Charles Linang



Candidate For Ward 9,
East

Mr. Charles Linang a member of the present Kuching Municipal Council has been a Municipal Commissioner under the Kuching Municipal Board, as it was when called, since 1950. He is standing as a candidate for Ward 9 in the coming Kuching Municipal Board continuously since 1950 and as a nominated member of the present Council since its inception in 1954 he has accumulated experience which can contribute to the service and welfare of the public.

Mr. Chai Kui Foh, who received his education in St. Joseph's School Kuching, has been a councillor of the present Kuching Municipal Council since 1954. During his term of service in the Municipal term of service in the Municipal Council, he has served for the benefit of the people with his best ability.

He stand as a candidate for ward 5, Market, in the forthcoming Municipal elections. If he is elected, he will continue to serve honestly and sincerely.

CHAI KUI FOH



Candidate Ward 5
Market

A.K. Marican Salleh.



Candidate ward 9, East,

Mr. A.K. Marican Salleh, aged 42, was born in Kuching, Sarawak. He was elected and passed the Std. VII in English at St. Joseph's School, Kuching, in 1927.

He was in government employment for 15 years including more than three years as an Astana Clerk in the pre-way days. After the liberation he was appointed Secretary of the Malay Association and held that post for four years, and has been a Committee Member of the said association till now.

He is a Nominated Councillor in the Kuching Municipal Council since 1953.

The object of standing for election in the November Elections is to see that the public gets the privilege from the payment of their income.

Chua Siang Cheng, another candidate for ward 7. Born in Kuching, age 35 years. Educated at St. Thomas's School, formerly worked in the Treasury Department and now as Secretary in the British Council Office.

Chua Siang Cheng



Candidate For
Ward 7.

**Mr. Jacob
Thomas Cecil de
Silva.**



*Candidate For Ward
2.*

Edward Jerah



*Candidate ward 9,
East*

**Eden bin
Abdullah**



*Candidate Ward 4,
Rock.*

Mr. De Silva, a retired government servant, is a Sinhalese born in Ceylon and educated at St. Joseph's College and University College, Colombo. He arrived in Sarawak 32 years ago and by reason of his long residence in this country has acquired a Sarawak domicile.

He is a member of the First Division Land Development Tribunal and an unofficial member of the Kuching Tenders Board. He is also the original founder of the S.G.A.O.U. which has done so much to safeguard the interest of the Junior Service.

If he is elected, all his endeavours in council will be guided by the principle that "the citizen has a right to expect not only that his affairs will be dealt with effectively, expeditiously and in his best interests but also that his personal feelings, no less than his rights as an individual, will be sympathetic.

Edward Jerah aged 62 - residing at Pig Lane.

Born at Merdang Village and educated at St John's School, Merdang and then at St. Thomas's School, Kuching. Later became a School Teacher in St. Thomas's School and then transferred to St. Luke's School, Sibul, Simanggang. Joined Government service in the year 1916 and retired in 1947, at the time of retirement was Office-in-charge, Kalaka.

In 1941 was made Council Negri Member which position he held up to 1953.

From 1950-1953 member of the Supreme Council. In addition to these two important memberships, Mr. Edward Jerah has also served on many other Committees.

A son of the soil his vast experience and intimate knowledge of the habits and customs not only of his own people but of other nationalities will help him much in attending to the needs of his constituents. He can make no promises, but, if elected will give freely of his best and serve the people of his ward at all times.

Eden bin Abdullah is a Melanau born at Kampong Daro, Sibul and educated in the Min Teck Junior Middle Chinese School at Kuching where he passed his seventh standard in English and attended the Junior Cambridge 1938.

He has been working in the Lands and Surveys Department, Kuching, for 21/2 years as draftsman and surveyor (1939-1941) and from then on as Hospital Assistant in the General Hospital.

He has been one of the organisers and a committee of Melanau Union (Christian, Islam and Liko) established in sibul in 1954 for bettering their social, economic and political standard. Should he be successful in being elected he would endeavour to discharge all the duties that might be entrusted to his care and to be the entire satisfaction of the people by representing their needs and aspirations to the Municipal Council.

Chan Khiok Leng



*Candidate For Ward 8
Central*

Mr. Chan Khiok Leng believes in a closer and more friendly relationship between the Public and their Council, and considers that much can be achieved once there is understanding and co-operation between the two parties. If he is elected he promises his Voters, and the people of Kuching, that he will earnestly serve them, as well as safeguard their interests to the best of his ability. He hopes that his years' of association with building and engineering projects in this country will, in a small way, assist the Council towards the fulfilment of such obligations.

W.J. Chater



Candidate For Ward 2

Mr. W.J. Charter is a Freeman of the City of London and his family has been closely associated with this part of the world for nearly 90 years. He was born third generation in Singapore. He has lived in Sarawak for nearly 30 years and was a Sarawak Government Officer for 27 years. He has lived in Ward 2 for about 20 years.

Mr. W.J. Chater does not wish to make any rash promises as he realises that the programme of the Kuching Municipal Council must of necessity depend on the funds available which, of course, will have to be met by the rate payer in the end.

He would like to see each ward allocated a specified sum of money each year and believes that in this way Ward 2 would not be so neglected as in the past while the "glamour" wards get most of the money.

The present overcrowding of shop houses is the cause of a great deal of sickness and he believes that most of this would disappear if everybody was given the choice of either buying or renting a house within the limit of his income.

Being a past President of the Kuching Football Association and the Kuching Badminton Association, Mr. W.J. Chater also favours more playing fields and a healthy outlet for the exuberance of the spirits of the youths of Kuching.

He humbly suggest that he be given the opportunity to be of service to you now and at all times.

Dr. M. Sockalingam



*Candidate for Ward 4,
Rock*

Dr. M. Sockalingam, Medical practitioner, member of the Kuching Municipal council, Unofficial member of the Council Negri and Member of the Supreme Council, is seeking election in Ward 4 Rock, at the forthcoming Kuching Municipal elections.

He says there are a lot of improvements necessary in that part of Kuching which is under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Council. All these improvements cannot be done at the more pressing needs first leaving the others to take their turn, spread over a number of years according to priority needs.

The most important consideration, is the question of how to finance these projects. The resources of the Kuching Municipal Council are at present very limited, and unless ways and means of acquiring more money are found, improvements must necessarily be slow. Even if we have the money, there are other problems such as shortage of technical staff and lack of machinery and equipment, all of which will play their

part in slowing improvements.

Even if we have the money, technical staff and machinery, etc., it will not always be possible for any single candidate to give a definite promise to something, if he is going to honour it. This at first

sight, would appear a rather startling statement: but if you think over it a little, you will find that it is true. After all, a candidate who makes promises and gets elected, is only one of the twenty seven councillors; and if the others disagree with him, where does his promise stand? The position is of course different if we have a party policy; and if a sufficient number of candidates belong to the same party succeeds in the elections. There is then a reasonably good chance of honouring such promise. As you all know we have, as yet, no such party system in Kuching.

In the light of these considerations, I am sure you will agree that if one is honest in what one says, I could only give you a solemn assurance to serve you sincerely and to do my very best to improve the various amenities which are needed in our town having full regard to the finances available, and also to priority considerations.

I also promise you to serve every citizen without discrimination and to consider, and make appropriate investigations of any complaints you may make, and ensure that no one is treated unfairly. I shall be pleased also to receive any suggestions for improvements you may have for consideration by the Council.

The vote you possess is the most powerful weapon; you have, to defend the interests and welfare of yourself and your children. You must therefore use it wisely and select the most suitable men to represent you in the Council. I have been with the Kuching Municipal Council for the last ten years, and you are in a position to access from my past services, and judge for yourself, if I am suitable to represent you. This election is the first of its kind in Sarawak, and in the competency of the people of Sarawak to govern themselves in the future. Though we belong to different communities or races, our nationality is essentially the same - "Sarawak" - I believe with confidence that you will make your choice wisely, based purely on merits, and irrespective of the race or community a candidate may belong to.

A.P. Merrells



*Candidate Ward 4 -
"Rock"*

Mr. A.P. Merrells arrived in this country in April 1913 to join the Borneo Company Limited with whom he had been for 35½ years and retired in September 1948 as their accountant.

Mr. A.P. Merrells is better known by all his friends as "uncle"

After retirement he worked as Assistant Secretary to the Sarawak Club for 1½ years, later when the Sarawak Turf Club first established an office of its own he was engaged as Treasurer where he worked for 2½ years. After a few months later he joined the St. Thomas's School as their Bursar where he had been for one year. He is a member of the Auxiliary Police since its inception about 8 years ago.

Now he is carrying on as a licensed Auctioneer and Appraiser and also Auditor to six limited liability companies. Being an old resident of this country he can assure all his voters if he is elected he will not hesitate to do all in his power to serve the various communities of his ward unstintedly for their good and also promote goodwill and understanding to all in this peaceful country.

Chong Kia Huan



*Candidate for Ward
6*

He is the Managing Partner of Chop Chong Kim Eng, 39-43, Carpenter Street; The Chairman of The Kheng Chew Association; committee Member of The Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

If he is elected for Ward 6 he will do his very best to deal with all the affairs which come under the jurisdiction of the Council in the interest of the people. As we all know the area of Ward 6 is situated at the centre of Kuching Town and therefore the population is dense. The problem of Housing still remains. In many places dwellings are overcrowded with people. Living conditions are unhealthy. He will seek Investments from the Government or Commercial interests in building low cost Flats for the people who can afford to bear the rent.

The improvement of health should be cared for and dealt with so that the people can live in better and healthier conditions.

As to Education we should form more of those Technical and Commercial classes to provide for the people who most need them; for the progress of the country mostly depends on them.

Will those of you in Ward 6 please do not hesitate to bring your problems whenever you have one or more to him and he will welcome you for your criticism and always serve to honestly.

I'II Object Increase In Assessment - Beng Hong

URGE FOR RUNNING WATER & ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES



"If elected, I would object any proposal for further increase in rates of assessment and hawker and vehicle licence fees, but would urge for running the water and electricity supply services in Kuching," Mr. Tan Beng Hong, a candidate in Ward 5, Market, in the forthcoming Kuching Municipal elections, said last evening over Radio Sarawak.

Mr. Tan is an old boy of Min Teck Junior Middle School and St Thomas's School. He is a commercial secretary in the Chinese Merchants United Trading Company Ltd. and Tan Brothers Co., Ltd. His daily life puts him into close contact with all sections of the community.

This address, he says, is one of the most important of his Election Campaigns:-

"My dear Voters, For another few days, the 4th of November, Kuching will have its first Municipal Elections. I am standing for Ward 5, Market.

"The aim of a candidate is to serve the people. Merchants who sell rice, cloth grocery goods, exporters of local produce, shop employees, stallholders, who sell vegetables, fish, pork and other foodstuff, wharf

labourers, firemen and policemen, all of them have contributed and are contributing so much to the daily life of the people, are those whom I must serve. I shall work for the improvements of water and electricity supply services, health conditions, low cost housing scheme, market, education and roads. I feel that talk without action is useless. All improvements can only be achieved with appropriate actions.

"It is commonly understood that Kuching Municipal Council can work well only with sufficient fund. For without money, nothing can be done. So some suggest that the Council should make further increase in rates of assessment, hawkers and vehicles licence fees, because during the last few years these rates and fees have been increased in average by over 100% , but in some instances well over 300 to 400%. Further increase will therefore render more disastrous hardship to the people.

"I am sure, all are aware that to pay tax in nothing but the duty of a man to the community and the country. But it is wrong to add unbearable burden to the people. And the additional sum of money derived from further increase will not do much good to the big project of the Council.

"It elected, not only would I object further increase to the burden of the people, but would urge the Council to approach the Central Government for running water and electricity supply services in Kuching, which are now still under the management of Public Works Department and Sarawak Electricity Supply company respectively. It is the DUTY of the Council to provide its tax payers with better water and electricity supply services. By undertaking the important public services. The council will then have the privilege of getting a good revenue. This money is obtained from the pockets of its tax payers, so it should be very wisely spent to the best interests of the people.

"It is only with the management of water and electricity supply services that the Kuching Municipal Council will be able to discharge its duty promptly and effectively for the peace and prosperity of the town.

I am fully aware that my suggestions have the kind support of the people. And it is with the strong support that I shall be able to forge ahead for the advancement of the Community. I shall maintain close contact with the people, learn from you and be at your service at all times. Please give me your kind support and vote for Tan Beng Hong as I have determined to serve you conscientiously and efficiently."

Chin Shen Syn



*Candidate For
Ward 5 Market.*

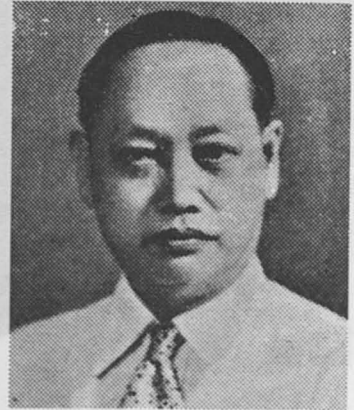
Mr. Chin Shen Syn, aged 31, who was educated in St. Thomas's School, Kuching is the Manager of Chin & Sons (1955) Ltd.,

He is also the President of The Kuching Rifle Club and the Honorary Treasurer of the Sarawak Junior Chamber of Commerce.

If elected he promises to do all the duties that might be entrusted to his care and to the entire satisfaction of the taxpayers by representing their needs and aspiration to the Municipal Council.

To serve in the best interests of taxpayers in general and Ward 5 in particular will be Mr. Chin Shen Syn's concern in the sphere of Municipal activity.

Lau Heng Choon



Candidate For Ward 5.

Among one of the first to file in nomination papers for the forthcoming Municipal Council elections in November, last Saturday, was Mr. Lau Heng Choon, of Messrs. Sim & Co., India Street, who is seeking election as a candidate for Ward No. 5 (Market)

Mr. Lau, an Old Thomian, is 53 years of age, and is a son of an ex-Government Court Interpreter (1912), the late Mr. Lau Leong Whee. Mr. Lau Heng Choon is himself an ex-Government service man, having been attached for 21 years to the Posts and Telegraph Department, Kuching, until 1951 when he left to go into business.

Three days after his leaving he service he was called up to join the Punjab Regiment under Major Lane, working as top secret wireless operator. During the Japanese occupation he managed to steer clear of trouble, manufacturing Chinese tobacco, cigarettes and cigars, and he stuck to this profession throughout the occupation.

After the liberation he started his business under the style of Sim and Company.

Song Thian Ho



*Candidate For Ward 7
Padungan.*

Mr. song Thian Ho, 40, is a Managing partner of Chop Guan Bee Ann, 46, Main Bazaar, Kuching.

He is a committee Member of The Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce; he also serves the Board of Management of the Kuching Chinese Schools, the Hockkien Association and the Kuching Rubber Exporters' Association.

He is seeking election in the forthcoming Kuching Municipal Council Elections as a candidate.

Chong Kia Meng



*Candidate for
Ward 4, Rock.*

Mr. Chong Kia Meng, who came from China in the year 1913, received his education in St. Thomas's School, Kuching. His length of residence in this Colony is 43 years.

He is the Managing Partner of Chop Syn Kim Eng; Committee Member of Kheng Chew Association; Committee Member of The Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce; Vice Chairman of The United Merchants' Association and Honorary Treasurer of The Building fund Raising Committee of Kuching Chung Hua Middle School.

Since 1954 he has been a Council.

Mr. William Tan First President K.M.C

By Edmund Ang

Fisher's Three-Point Advice



MR. William Tan was last Saturday elected the first President of the Kuching Municipal Council by secret ballot, topping the only other candidate in the run, Mr. Ong Kee Hui by only one vote.

The announcement of the voting result was made by the outgoing Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. J.C.B. Fisher to a tense and hushed audience after the ballot papers had been scrutinised by a panel of three independent scrutineers.

The inaugural meeting of the first freely-elected Municipal Council was held in the Council Chamber last Saturday at 9 a.m. All the 27 elected Councillors for the nine wards in the Kuching Municipality were present and in attendance were the outgoing Secretary, Mr. C.E. Sandbach; his successor, Mr. A.R. Meikle (late Chairman of the Sibu Urban District Council); Mr. Tan Nyin Chin, Clerk of the Council; Mr. J.S. Haworth, Municipal Health Officer; Mr. C.Y. Wang, Acting Municipal Engineer; and Mr. Kho Chong Seng. Before going on with the business of the day Mr. Fisher asked Council's approval to remain in the chair before the elected President took over.

His request was unanimously approved by Council.

Councillors then signed the forms of declaration of acceptance of office.

FISHER'S ADDRESS

In his outgoing address to the Council, Mr. Fisher said that it gave him great pleasure to greet the Councillors to the Inaugural meeting of the newly elected Council.

He added: "Before the elections took place I said that I felt certain that the people of Kuching would choose wisely and well, and as I see you all sitting there - there first elected governing body in Sarawak it is plain that the people of Kuching did choose wisely and well.

"I would like to congratulate the electors.

"There are three things that I would like to mention.

"Firstly, to remember that although you are individuals from your various wards, when you sit your various wards, when you sit here you are a member of the Municipal brain, you are not individually that brain. You voice your own personal opinion and in that way contribute to the decisions that the brain will make, but once that decision has been made - and possibly it will not be what you personally wanted - you should abide by the majority decision and do all in your power to see that it is carried out.

"These decisions that you made as a Council go in the first place to the Council's chief executive officer, the Municipal Secretary, and it is he who sees that your wishes are carried out. In no circumstances should and individual Councillor ever give instructions personally to one of the

Council's executive officers. It is only the majority vote of the Municipal brain - the Council - that can do that. I give you this advice for a very good reason, and that is because since I have enjoyed the position of Chairman of this Council, on numerous occasions I have had to remind myself of this fact.

"In the second place I should like to draw your attention to criticism in Council of the work done by the Standing Committees. Unless there are very strong grounds for such criticism I would advise that this privilege be handled with care.

"And thirdly I would like to draw your attention to what I call "racialism". During the time that I have occupied this chair never once has racialism entered into any debate. Time and again I have seen Malays, Chinese, Indians, Ceylonese and Europeans vote together on some particular subject, for their mutual benefit, and I advise you to keep things this way, for the benefit of all the various nationalities that make up this happy and contented population of Kuching.

"You will find that you have a most efficient, hard working and cheerful executive staff. The old Council always strove to see that they were contented and happy in their work and this I feel is something of exceedingly great value which you have inherited.

"Lastly I wish you all the best of luck and may God guide you in your deliberations."

TRIBUTE TO FISHER

Councillor Stephen Yong then rose with the Chairman's permission to propose a vote of thanks. He explained that if he did not take this opportunity there would be none after proceeding to the other items on the agenda. Councillor Yong, on behalf of the Council conveyed his thanks to Mr. Fisher for the splendid work that he had done and the enthusiasm and energy he had shown in pursuing a determined course to make the elections a success. Mr. Yong added that the success of the elections was another assuring fulfilment of Government's pledge to guide the people of Sarawak to self-government.

The presidential election procedure then followed. Mr. Fisher first explained the procedure and emphasised that balloting would be absolutely secret and he promised that there would be no disclosure of the number of votes cast for candidates.

THE ELECTION

Mr. Song Thian Cheok proposed Mr. Ong Kee Hui and this proposal was seconded by Haji Su'ut Tahir. Mr. Ong signified his acceptance of the proposal to stand Mr. Ahmed Zaidi Adruce then proposed Mr. William Tan and Mr. Teo Kui Seng seconded. Mr. Tan signified his willingness to stand. There were five other candidates besides Mr. Ong and Mr. Tan who were nominated by Councillors for the Presidency, but all of them declined to accept the nomination.

The Councillors were then each of them handed a ballot paper which they filled in secret. The paper were then placed in the ballot basket and taken to the Committee scrutinised by a panel of three independent scrutineers - Mr. L.C. Handing, Manager of the Chartered bank, Mr. Wu Hei Tak, Education Officer, and Wan Sadi, a Magistrate of the First Class.

When the Scrutineers had completed their task Mr. Fisher returned to the Council Chamber to make the announcement. Before doing so he said that though he had earlier promised that he would not reveal dates the result had turned out to be so interesting that he would as permission of Councillors to let him reveal it. Permission having been given Mr. Fisher then announced that Mr. William Tan was elected President, topping Mr. Ong Kee Hui by one vote.

The same procedure was adopted in the election of the Vice President Councillor Francis Tan proposed Mr. Ahmed Zaidi Adruce and M. Dawi bin Abdul Rahman seconded. Eight other candidates were nominated but all of them declined to accept the nomination. Mr. Ahmed Zaidi Adruce then became Vice President.

After the election, Mr. William Tan, before taking the chair, said that he highly appreciated the work done by Mr. Fisher for the benefit of Kuching. He thanked Mr. Fisher for his splendid effort and determined energy which had contributed to the success of the elections. Mr. Tan also thanked Mr. Sandbach, the Municipal Secretary, who is leaving the Council. He said that he hoped that Mr. Sandbach would continue to give the new Council his wise counsel from time to time.

The President then recalled what the Governor had said in his broadcast before the Election

Day last month, paying tribute to Mr. Fisher who had many months of confinement which came to a climax on November, “when he gave birth to 26 sons and one daughter who are sitting in this Council today.”

Mr. Tan added that what the Chairman had done was greatly appreciated not only by the present Council but by all Councils to come. He then wished Mr. Fisher and Mr. Sandbach and their families, all the best in their future undertakings.

After taking the chair the President then thanked all the Councillors for having elected him, adding that the trust they had on him would not be carried out unwillingly.

The President added that the Council was elected by the public “whose trust in us is of paramount importance”. He hoped that Council would carry out that trust with integrity and impartiality. The President mentioned that this year of the Council was the hardest of the lot because this was a new Council, a new baby which needed mother care and love until it had gained its maturity.

He therefore urged for the cooperation of all Councillors so that he could discharge his duty with confidence for the betterment of Kuching.

After the President’s address Mr. Sandbach then read out messages of congratulations from the Singapore City Council, from Mr. Buck, former Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, and from the Chairman of the Sibuluan Urban district Council.

Mr. Sandbach then disclosed the financial position of the Council. The Constitution of the Standing Committees followed after Mr. Sandbach’s communications. Before the Council adjourned until its next ordinary meeting to be held on Friday, December 28, the Council discussed some businesses of importance.



Cr. The Hon'ble
Mr. Stephen
Kuet Tze Yong,
I.I.B.



Cr. Mrs. Kong
Yu Siung,
M.B.E.



PRESIDENT
Cr. The Hon'ble
Mr. William Tan,
A.I.A.A.



VICE-PRESIDENT
Cr. Ahmad Zaidi
Aduce, M.A.



Cr. The Hon'ble
Mr. Ong Kee
Hui



Cr. The Hon'ble
Mr. Yeo Cheng
Hoe



Cr. Song Thian
Cheok



Cr. Chin Poh
Luke



Cr. Ikhwan bin
Abg. Hj. Zainie



Cr. Mohd. bin
Hj. Bakri



Cr. Lo Foot Kee



Cr. Dawi bin
Abdul Rahman



Cr. Ee Ghim
Yam



Cr. Teo Kui
Seng Resigned



Cr. Chan Siaw
Hee



Cr. The Hon'ble
Haji M. Su'ut
Tahir



Cr. Law Heng
Choon



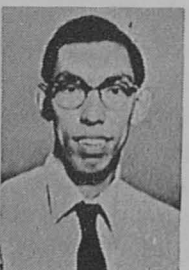
Cr. Henry Ong
Kee Chuan



Cr. Sim Joo Sek



Cr. Fang Kuan
Lin



Cr. Shii Dai
Seng Resigned



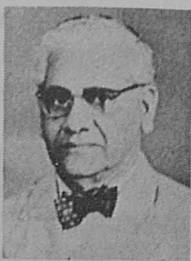
Cr. Haji. Mohd.
Rambli bin Haji
Leman



Cr. Francis Tan
Eng Chong



Cr. Tan Tak
Seng



Cr. Frank
James, M.B.E.
Elected in By-
election.



Cr. Song Thian
Ho



Cr. John Lee
Nyuk Syn



Cr. Goh Hong
Kee



Cr. Ngui Ah
Sim, A.C.
Elected in By-
election.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF SARAWAK SIR ANTHONY ABELL'S ELECTION DAY MESSAGE

BROADCAST OVER RADIO SARAWAK:

"First of all ... I would like to thank those who have organised these elections. It has been no commonplace feat.

"So I would like to start by congratulating the present Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council. He has spent many months of anxious confinement. I hope the results will be some reward for his work. Then I would like to mention the Press. They have been of the greatest assistance to Mr. Fisher and his team giving their services and space in their newspapers free giving also ... helpful advice to the public, the British Council, Radio Sarawak, and the Information Officer have together worked long hours to be of the maximum assistance.

"Last but not least I must mention the competitors. I have been struck but not surprised by the friendliness of the campaign. There has been no mud-slinging. In most countries politics seem to give a man licence to behave in an uncivilised manner. I hope we shall continue to conduct our elections like civilised human beings.

"I must also welcome the observers from many of our larger centres and from places even beyond our frontiers. I hope they will learn something of value in Kuching.

"Lastly one word to the voters. Kuching has been divided into territorial wards, please try to select the best individuals in your wards, whether they are Hakkas, or Malays or Cantonese or Dayaks. We could have divided the areas communally and asked you to vote only for people of your own race but that would not be in the traditions of Sarawak. Best wishes to you."

MR. FISHERS'S ELECTION DAY MESSAGE

The Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. J.C.B. Fisher also recorded a message broadcast over Radio Sarawak.

"Next Sunday is Election Day. A small army of people have been busily engaged during the past eight months to make these elections an unqualified success. This is not a one man show, for we have received many ideas from the public. These ideas have proved most valuable.

"Two primary things could cause failure: One, that insufficient citizens would offer themselves as candidates and two, that the voting public might fail to support them and vote. The first fear was quickly dispelled. The total number of candidates is 58 for the nine Wards and 27 seats in the new Council. By the way candidates have come forward the Municipality is ready to take the road to self-government, OR IS IT?

"We shall know this by Sunday night. The success or failure of these elections (and eyes of the three British Borneo Territories are on us) lies entirely in your hands.

"The future Municipal Administration of Kuching is a stake. If we fail we shall put everyone's clock back for years."

“THE SARAWAK TRIBUNES” COMMENTS ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS

“Mr. and Mrs. Kuching will tomorrow choose their Councillors to represent them in the first free elections to be held in Sarawak. History will be made then. Organisers have laboured to get the elections machinery into fruition, public spirited men and women knowing full well the enormous tasks, yet are prepared to come forward and serve the community. These elections will mark a very big milestone in the progress of the country. The campaigns conducted, lacked nothing of the professional touch of hard-boiled politicians in more advanced countries. We may have not attained the glamour and the hecklings which usually follow elections in other countries but we still retain a unique spirit and equality.

“Where else but in Sarawak, can you see election campaigns being carried out without any form of mud slinging and names calling. This spirit of friendliness may appear tame and unexciting but underneath it lies the tradition which has long been part of Sarawak’s heritage. Fears are entertained whether the voters will play their part well. There should be no doubt, the voters of Kuching, will, when they cast their votes, use their common sense and discretion.”

THE ELECTION A SUCCESS

Polling Day took on an air of festivity. In spite of an overcast sky and a morning drizzle many people were up before the firing of the guns from Fort Margherita at 7 a.m. to mark the opening of the polling stations. The sky cleared after 9 a.m. but the people had already started from their homes for the polling booths and by 8.30 a.m. large crowds could be seen thronging the roads.

The peak hour of the crowd was between 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. The keystone was the orderly manner in which the public went to the polls.

Radio Sarawak opened the day’s programme at 7 a.m. with a broadcast on election proceedings. Later a travelling unit toured polling booths giving on the spot broadcasts of proceedings. Brisk polling was reported at all booths.

The Returning Officer, the Presiding Officer and other polling officials were early at their posts. At least 80 per cent of the 5,600 voters turned out at the booths to elect their representatives. At some stations voters were waiting outside before time. In the Kampongs voters came out early with umbrellas and other coverings. A number of very old people too came to vote. Some had to be helped to the station.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. J. H. Ellis and the Financial Secretary, Mr. J. C. H. Barcroft were among the first to vote. The Governor, of course, did not vote. But he made personal calls at polling stations to acquaint himself with the situation at first hand.

The Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. Fisher was also out early in his round of the polling stations accompanied by Mr. Wickstead from North Borneo and Mr. G. A. T. Shaw, Acting Resident, Third Division.

The climax was reached in the evening when the guns fired from Fort Magherita at 6 p.m. to mark the closing of the polling stations, ballot boxes were transferred to the Municipal Council Offices and counting began. Meanwhile the Sarawak Constabulary band performed under a specially erected tent at the Municipal park. This drew the crowds which swelled after dusk outside the Municipal Offices to hear the results.

The Municipal Offices were floodlit and gaily decorated for the occasion with Union Jacks and bunting. When ballot boxes came in after 6 p.m. it became a hive of activity. Cars lined the roadsides. Counting began at 6.30 p.m. By 8.45 p.m. all results had been declared.

POLLING ON ELECTION DAY

There were 3,951 people out of the total of 4,557 registered voters in the Kuching Municipal Area, who voted at the various polling stations. This constituted 86.66 per cent of the total number of voters.

COMMENTS ON THE ELECTIONS

“The public of Kuching in coming out full force to vote at the first free Municipal Elections yesterday have given the lie to the allegations that the people here are backward, indolent and apathetic. The orderly manner in which the elections have been carried out ... the excellent organization preceding polling day ... has given us cause to be envied by even far more advanced countries

“The successful outcome proves that the time was mature for the people of Kuching to take over a greater share of civic responsibilities through a truly representative Council. It is also ... compensation to the volume of work which the organisers headed by the Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, have planned and executed. It reiterates the traditional team spirit which this country and her people have engaged.

“Yesterday’s proceedings mark another milestone in the History of Sarawak. We have been watched ... the success which has now followed will doubtless serve as the pattern which can be modified and adopted by not only other divisions in Sarawak but also in other British Borneo Territories. The end of the elections means the beginning of the tasks which the newly elected Councillors will have to face. Their responsibilities will be greater because they are in the Council by choice.”

It may be of interest to my readers to read the different version of the elections from the following:- The Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. Fisher, in an interview expressed satisfaction at the way the elections were proceeding. He said that the weather had not deterred people from going to the polling booths to vote.

Mr. Wickstead, observer of the North Borneo Government, said he was pleased to be here on this occasion and that the success of these elections would mark a milestone in the history of the three British Borneo Territories. He said he was impressed by the arrangements made and by the good response of the voters.

Mr. G. W. Geikie, Chairman, Miri Urban District Council. Another observer, said he had learnt a good deal and obtained a very favourable impression of the proceedings.

Mr. G. A. T. Shaw, acting Resident, Third Division, said he was greatly impressed by the smooth organisation of the elections and by the good turn out of the voters.

CHAIRMAN’S OUTGOING ADDRESS

In his outgoing address to the Council, Mr. Fisher, the Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council said:

“Before the election I said that the people of Kuching should choose wisely. It is plain that the people did choose wisely and well. I would like to congratulate the electors. There are three things that I would like to mention:

“Firstly, to remember that although you are individuals from various wards, you are members of the Municipal brain. You voice your own personal opinion and contribute to the decisions that the brain will make; but once that decision had been made, you should abide by the majority decision.

“These decisions go to the Council’s Chief Executive Officer, the Municipal Secretary, who sees

that your wishes are carried out. In no circumstances should an individual Councillor give instructions personally to one of the Council's Executive Officers. It is only the Municipal brain - the Council - that can do that.

"In the second place regarding criticism in Council of the work done by the Standing Committee, I would advise that the privilege be handled with care.

"And, Thirdly, I would draw your attention to racialism. During the time that I have occupied this Chair, I have seen Malay, Chinese, Indian, Ceylonese and Europeans vote together, on some particular subject for their mutual benefit, I advise you to keep things this way.

"Lastly, I wish you all the best of luck and may God guide you in your deliberations."

TRIBUTE TO MR. FISHER BY MR. STEPHEN YONG

Councillor Stephen Yong especially rose and proposed a vote of thanks which was out of the agenda, to the outgoing Chairman, Mr. J. C. B. Fisher, for the splendid work that he had done to make the elections a success. He added that the success of the elections was a fulfilment of the Government's pledge to guide the people to self-government.

Mr. J. C. B. Fisher then explained the procedure for electing a President after which the presidential election followed.

THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

When nominations were called for, Mr. Song Thian Cheok proposed Mr. Ong Kee Hui and the proposal was seconded by Haji Su'ut Tahir. Then Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce proposed Mr. William Tan and Mr. Teo Kui Seng seconded the proposal. Both candidates signified their willingness to stand.

But five other candidates nominated by Councillors for the Presidency declined to stand.

The Councillors rose then each was handed a ballot paper to be filled in secret. The papers were then placed in the ballot box and taken to the Committee Meeting Room where they were scrutinised by a panel of three: Mr. L. C. Harding, Manager, Chartered Bank; Mr. Wu Hei Tak, Education Officer; and Mr. Wan Sadi, First Class Magistrate.

After the scrutiny Mr. Fisher returned to the Council Chamber and announced that the result had turned out to be so interesting that he wanted the permission of the Council to disclose it. Permission being granted, Mr. Fisher announced to a hushed audience that Mr. William Tan had been elected President.

READERS VIEW - 24th November, 1956 WHO STARTED IT?

I am surprised to hear the rumour that the so-called "band of Old Thomians Councillors" are rallying round to elect a fellow Thomian to be President of the Council come-what-may. This is news to me and also to many others.

Such irresponsible chatter could only bring harm to the Council as a whole - therefore please let good sense prevail.

Who started this latest tittle-tattle is either one who did with utter disregard for the future success of the Council as a whole or one who is just a plan reckless fool shooting off his big mouth.

The RIGHT persons would be chosen as President and Vice-President of the Council not because they happen to be wearing the old school tie or because they happen to be tall, dark and handsome.

Yours etc.,
FRANCIS TAN ENG CHONG,
Kuching, 23.11.56.

READERS VIEW - 26th November, 1956

DISMISS IRRESPONSIBLE RUMOURS

I refer to Mr. Francis Tan Eng Chong's letter published in The Sarawak Tribune today and cannot agree with him more that the RIGHT persons would be chosen as President and Vice-President of the Kuching Municipal Council. I would, however, dismiss the irresponsible rumours.

I have the highest regard and respect for my fellow Councillors, and feel sure they can exercise good sense in discharge of their responsible duties, and for that matter, in their choice of their President, without being influenced by irresponsible elements which often tend to be mischievous and may try to create disunity or animosity among Councillors, or to discredit the Councillors in the eyes of the citizens of Kuching.

I have made up my mind as to who is most fit to be the President of the Council on merit alone, and nothing will change my decision, and I can honestly say that the colour of his tie or face will not influence me in the least.

Yours etc.,
SONG THIAN CHEOK,
Kuching, 23.11.56.

READERS VIEWS - 28th November, 1956

SUGGESTIONS

Mr. Francis Tan seems rather touchy on the so-called rumour regarding the new Council President. May I offer a suggestion to Councillor at the forthcoming meeting? Firstly, that only each candidate of each ward who polled the highest number of votes be considered eligible to stand, thus supporting public preference. Secondly, a secret ballot with independent scrutineer.

Yours etc.,
ANAK SARAWAK
Kuching, 24.11.56.

READERS VIEWS - 30th November, 1956

TOP VOTES NO CRITERION

"Anak Sarawak" should be congratulated for his remarkable suggestions.

Perhaps he might have overlooked the fact that a candidate who pulled the highest number of votes in a certain ward does not necessarily mean that he/she would be always on top in each and every ward. The number of votes returned for any candidate in any one ward alone is therefore no criterion of candidate's ability and popularity. To say the least, God had not given us his yardstick to measure from A to Z.

The Council, being new should have a President with the best qualifications and experience to hold the reins. If he/she should betray the trust reposed by his/her fellow councillors, every voter

will be shirking his/her duty if steps are not taken to ...

Yours etc.,
LAU HAN CHOON,
Kuching, 27.11.56.

MR. WILLIAM TAN, FIRST PRESIDENT

Mr. William Tan was elected the first President of the Kuching Municipal Council by secret ballot, topping the only other candidate Mr. Ong Kee Hui by only one vote.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

The same procedure was adopted in the election of Vice-President. Councillor Francis Tan proposed Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce and Mr. Dawi bin Abdul Rahman seconded. Eight other candidates were nominated but since all of them declined the nomination, Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce became Vice-President.

QUALIFICATION OF PRESIDENT

At the meeting of the Kuching Municipal Council held on Saturday, 1st December, Mr. J. C. B. Fisher, the outgoing Chairman, referring to a reader's letter to The Sarawak Tribune said he wished to dispel the impression that to stand for the Presidency of the new Council, a Councillor must have a suitably large house and be able to entertain on his own account. He pointed out that every Councillor, irrespective of financial standing is equally eligible to stand for the Presidency.

THE INAUGURAL MEETING

The inaugural meeting of the first freely-elected Municipal Council was held in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 1st December, 1956, at 9 a.m. when all the twenty-seven Councillors were present. Also present were: The Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, the outgoing Secretary, Mr. C. E. Sandbach, his successor, Mr. A. R. Meikle, Mr. Tan Nyit Chin, Clerk of the Council, Mr. J. S. Haworth, Municipal Health Officer, Mr. C. Y. Wang, Acting Municipal Engineer and Mr. Kho Chong Seng, Municipal Valuer.

The Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. J. C. B. Fisher then invited Mr. William Tan to take the chair.

NEW PRESIDENT ADDRESS

The first duty Mr. William Tan did, after his election as President was to pay a tribute to Mr. J. C. B. Fisher, the outgoing Chairman, for the work done by him for the benefit of Kuching, and to thank him for his splendid effort and determined energy which alone had contributed so much to the success of the elections.

Mr. Tan also thanked Mr. Sandbach, the outgoing Municipal Secretary, and expressed the hope that Mr. Sandbach would continue to give the new Council the benefit of his wise advice from time to time.

The President then went on to recall what the Governor had said in his broadcast on the eve of the elections about Mr. Fisher having had many months of anxious confinement. This confinement,

the President, the President said in a vein of humour reached a climax on 4th November “when he gave “birth” to twenty-six sons and one daughter who are sitting in the Council to-day.” (laughter). The President pointed out that what the Chairman had done would be appreciated by all the Councils to come. He then wished Mr. Fisher and Mr. Sandbach all the best in their future undertakings.

TAKING THE CHAIR

The President, Mr. William Tan, after taking the chair thanked all the Councillors for having elected him and assured them that the trust that they had placed in him would not be carried out unwillingly. He stressed that the Council was fully elected by the people “whose trust in US is of paramount importance” and hoped that the Council would carry out that trust with integrity and impartiality.

The President pointed out that the first year would doubtless prove to be hardest year because of the fact that the Council was a new one - a new born baby which needed mother’s care and love to nurture it to maturity.

The President concluded by calling for the co-operation of all Councillors to enable him to discharge his duty with confidence for the betterment of Kuching.

The Municipal Secretary, Mr. Sandbach, then read out messages of congratulations from Singapore City Council, Mr. W. S. B. Buck, former Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, and the Chairman of the Sibu Urban District Council.

The Constitution of the Standing Committee followed.

The Council then discussed some business of importance before it adjourned until the next ordinary meeting on Friday, 28th December, 1956.

FELICITATIONS TO NEW PRESIDENT

As soon as the meeting adjourned Councillors and others in the Council Chamber pressed round the newly-elected President and Vice-President to offer their congratulations. The President held an on the spot reception to entertain them.

During the reception a telegram of congratulations came from His Excellency the Governor wishing the new Council every success.

On behalf of the Councillors the President despatched a telegram thanking His Excellency the Governor for his good wishes.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ELECTIONS

History was undoubtedly made when the citizens of Kuching went to the polls on the 4th November, 1956, to elect their representatives, and another milestone was marked on the road to self-government. Three things impressed one very deeply: first, the solemnity of the occasion and the atmosphere of friendliness; secondly, the communal harmony as evidenced in the election of a Chinese Councillors as a President and a Malay Councillor as a Vice-President; and thirdly, a vote of thanks (out of the agenda) to the outgoing Chairman by Councillor Stephen Yong.

The newly-elected Council has now taken over and the twenty-seven (27) elected councillors, representing their respective wards will be responsible for Municipal affairs for the next three years. Though much of the routine work of the Council will be carried on as before there is yet a difference between a nominated Council and an elected Council. Elected Councillors owe more responsibility

to the people (whom they represent) than Nominated Councillors.

They are answerable to every individual in their respective wards while the voters advantage is that they can contact the Councillors directly which is their right and privilege. The welfare of the various wards are thereby assured the attention of their respective Councillors.

However, while a Councillor must be accessible to the people of his ward the latter cannot expect every request to be fulfilled since the final decision rests with the Council and the welfare of the Community as a whole comes before that of the individual.

LOW COST HOUSING FLATS

One of the subjects discussed at the meeting was the Municipality Low Cost Housing Flats when the Report of the Standing Committee for Public Health was tabled. Mr. C. E. Sandbach, the outgoing Municipal Secretary, reported that in spite of the increase in population, and the overcrowding in certain areas, relatively few applications had been received for the flats.

These low cost flats are designed for the lower income group and intended to provide them with healthier and better conditions of living at a minimum rental level.

Councillor Yeo Cheng Ho said that one of the reasons might be that the rent was considered high. Councillor Mrs. Kong Yu Siung said that there might be other reasons too, like people being contented to live in cubicles and averse to staying with too many neighbours. Since rentals in the overcrowded areas range from \$15/- per mensem for a bed space, to \$45/- per mensem for a cubicle, and since life in these houses consists of many families living in quarters separated only by the wooden partitions, neither of the above reasons sound plausible.

The real reason probably is the inclination of so many members of the trade to be as close as possible to their place of occupation. For instance a hawker may prefer to stay next door to where he plies his wares, and a shop assistant right in the shop where he is employed. There are advantages, for it does mean saving of time, expense and labour. But it is surprising to find people preferred to ignore the health point in return for material advantage.

Mr. Sandbach, however, pointed out that in view of the substantial sum spent on these flats it was quite impossible to reduce the rent.

KUCHING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FIRE STATION

An annual was written when the President performed the opening ceremony of the new three-storey Fire Station and the four-storey flats at the junction of Central Road East and Padungan Road on Saturday, April 13th.

The magnificent multi-coloured buildings which constitute one of the Municipal Council's biggest projects cost about \$370,000/- of which \$100,000/- was granted by the Central Government.

The new Fire Station building now houses all the fire-fighting engines, trailer pumps and vehicles and the Superintendent's office in the ground floor. On the first floor are located the living quarters for the unmarried personnel of the Brigade which includes a mess room, kitchen, a reading room, bathrooms and modern sanitation. On the top floor is the Superintendent's quarters.

The Fire Station is equipped with two "Dennis" trailer pumps, two convertible vehicles and a complete up-to-date engine.

TOUR OF THE NORTH

On the 26th July, the President flew to Jesselton in the first leg of a tour of Jesselton, Sandakan, Brunei, Seria and Miri.

During the course of the tour he conveyed greetings of the Council to the various Authorities he met. They, in their turn, showed great interest in the development of the Kuching Municipality especially in regard to elections and low cost housing schemes.

At Jesselton, after attending a cocktail party as a guest of His Excellency the Governor, the Chairman and members of the Town Board kindly gave a reception in his honour.

In Sandakan, an extraordinary meeting of the Town Board was convened at which he answered questions for over an hour. An invitation was extended to the Chairman and members of both the Jesselton and Sandakan Town Board to visit Kuching should they wish to study our work, particularly in respect of Municipal housing and administration. An official reception was given in his honour.

Boy Scouts of Sandakan gave him a tea-party in the Jesselton hotel. The District Officer, including some members of the Legislative Council, were present.

While at Brunei he had discussions with the British Resident, Mr. J. O. Gilbert, and with several members of the State Council and the Municipal Board.

In the Oilfields area, he was the guest of the Managing Director, Mr. R. E. Hales, and paid a visit by helicopter to the Siwa offshore drilling platform - the only one in Sarawak Territorial waters.

At Seria a reception was given in his honour in the Seria Recreation Club by the Sarawakians. At Kuala Belait he had the occasion to discuss municipal matters with the Chairman of the Town Board.

At Miri, he was the guest of the Resident and Mrs. J. C. B. Fisher, and attended an official reception given by the Chairman and members of the Miri Urban District Council.

Finally, during the two hours between arrival at Sibul and catching the plane for Kuching, the Chairman of the Sibul Urban district Council, Mr. D. C. Walker, met him at the Airport and showed him the latest developments of the town.

He gave talks on both Radio Sabah and Radio Brunei on matters regarding procedure of the elections of the Kuching Municipal Council and further cementing the friendship of the Borneo Territories. He was interviewed by Radio Sarawak on his return to Kuching.

He felt with confidence that the tour has helped to foster a spirit of friendliness and goodwill between the Local Government bodies in the various British Borneo Territories.

PRESIDENT'S CIVIC RECEPTION

Mr. William Tan, President of the Kuching Municipal Council held his First Civic Reception at his residence "Fair-view," Reservoir Road, on the 18th December, following the commencement of the new Municipal Year. More than 250 guests attended the reception which included His Excellency the Governor, the Chief Justice and Lady Williams and the Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. J. C. H. Barcroft. Also present were three distinguished visitors, Sir Berkeley Gage, Lady Gage, and Mr. Gilbert Holiday of the British Embassy in Laos, who had arrived in Kuching only the previous day from Singapore on a private visit. All Councillors and their wives, and leading personalities were present.

The hostess at the reception was Mrs. Ruth Fisher, wife of Mr. J. C. H. B. Fisher, former Chairman of the Kuching Municipal.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME

The President began the proceedings by welcoming His Excellency the Governor. The President said, "On behalf of Council it is my great pleasure to welcome His Excellency the Governor to the first business meeting of Council. I take it as yet one more sign of the tremendous interest which His Excellency has always shown in the affairs of the Kuching Municipal Council that he should have arranged to attend our meeting to-day.

"Members of Council will recall the comfort and encouragement it was during the hectic hours on polling day on November 4th to see His Excellency touring the polling stations and taking such a keen interest in electoral procedure. It was an encouragement to which the citizens of Kuching could not and did not fail to respond.

"I feel the same sense of encouragement to-day when I welcome His Excellency to our midst. His interest is a reassurance to us all that, particularly in our early days as elected Council, we will not want for sympathetic understanding of our problems and difficulties.

"I do not underestimate those problems and difficulties. there will be plenty of them. BUT, we shall face up to them with good heart and full of confidence that we do not stand alone".

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

In the course of his opening address to the first ordinary meeting of the newly-elected Kuching Municipal Council Sir Anthony abell emphasised three main points:-

Firstly, relationship with the Central Government which is responsible for formulating the general lines of policy that is to be given effect to by the local authorities.

Secondly, relationship with the public. Councillors are expected to represent all the people, not only the majority but also the minority.

Thirdly, relationship with the press and radio, which the Council must trust to interpret its intentions fairly in return for the help of both.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

The maintenance of the highest possible standards of public service and professional conduct. The role of the Kuching Municipal Council in the future of the country. It has a great part to play while its influence is likely to extend outside the boundaries of Kuching.

Relationship with neighbours. Councillors must foster closer understanding between the Three Territories of Borneo.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AT THE FIRST ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEWLY-ELECTED KUCHING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

"It is very kind of you to invite me to address your Council this afternoon at its first ordinary meeting. It is a privilege of which I am very conscious as I feel that this is a meeting of considerable significance in our history. In this opening address I shall not talk to you about the practical

application of the principles of local government or tell you how to run your own affairs. Some of you have more experience than I have in this matter and the rest of you will learn far more quickly through your own experience and intuition than through any number of lectures from me or from anyone else.

“Outside the details of your work, there are one or two points I would like you to consider. First of all there is the matter of your relationship with Government. This is of vital importance to you and to the Central Government but it is a relationship with Government. This is of vital importance to you and to the Central Government but it is of vital importance to you and to the Central Government but it is a relationship which is not easy to define. I think the best description of it and the one I like best is partnership. The Central government is responsible for formulating the general lines of policy and the local authorities within the range of their activities give effect to that policy, but you exercise your responsibilities in your own right and not as agents of Government Departments. I hope we can develop this feeling of partnership between the Municipality of Kuching and the Central Government, and that you Mr. President and members of your committees will never hesitate to seek advice from government and to call upon the technical departments of Government for any assistance or help of which you feel the need. I hope this will develop a sense of mutual confidence and an association which will allow both parties to discharge their duties and responsibilities with the maximum efficiency. I would like you Mr. President to feel that you have behind you a Government prepared to support you in your difficulties and rejoice with you in your triumphs. I have asked the Departments of Government to take particular note of my request that they should give every help in their power to you.

“I would like also to say a word about your relationship with the public, your public, who selected you. From among many of the citizens of Kuching the public selected you to represent their interest and views in this Council and to govern the affairs of this town with tranquillity and efficiency. But among the electors were many who did not vote for you; many in fact voted for other people, but now that you are elected you represent them all, not only the majority but the minority as well. A member is expected to be aware of the views held by his electors and take them into consideration in making his own judgements in the wider interest of the State. You are sent here to get on with the job for the good of all because the people have confidence in your wisdom and ability. They do not expect to be consulted in the day to day work of this Council. That would be an impossible situation but they expect to be kept in touch through the medium of the Press and through personal contact with you.”

“Which brings me to the important matter of your relationship with the Press. The Press and Radio have been very helpful to this Council in the past and I believe all would agree they contributed greatly to the success that attended the recent elections. I am sure you will be conscious of their wish to continue to support and assist you in your task and that in return you will take them into your confidence and trust them to interpret fairly your intentions and your performance.

“But the Press has a less easy task to perform in a free country: it also acts as the public safety valve. It is their duty to air public grievances and honestly-held views: Some of these will be critical of you and your work: some of them will appear hurtful and damaging to your reputation. Some may possibly be dictated by spite or malice, misconception and ignorance and will be difficult to bear with a calm mind: but the essence of democracy is that there should be freedom of expression and the public are usually quick to recognize the malicious and the unjust, and a responsible press educates its readers to differentiate between public spirit and bad blood.

“Your public will at times exasperate you - they will appear obstinately obtuse and at times deliberately destructive. It requires a great deal of patience and courage and above all a sense of humour to be a leader in a democratic state. It asks much more of a man than other systems of government where freedom is denied.

“Your success in Kuching depends very largely upon the maintenance of the highest possible standards of public service and professional conduct. It is not sufficient that the public servant should keep within the law; he must avoid scrupulously any situation in which suspicion may arise that he is displaying partiality, politically or otherwise, or using his office for private gain. The co-

operation and vigilance of the public and the Press as well as you the elected representatives is required in this matter. I have always been impressed by the high standards of public special responsibility to see that these standards are maintained; There can be no intercourse between corruption and public service - they cannot live together in the same house or in the same Council or the same Service.

“Many people from outside Kuching will watch your progress. They will come here to study your difficulties; they will judge your faults; they will copy your achievements. Some will say that you are not ready for such a long step forward. I disagree emphatically. I know you will do this job better than it has ever been done before because you are determined to do so, because you will uphold the best traditions of Sarawak and because the people of Kuching will give you their whole-hearted support and co-operation.

“I think we should take a look further afield in time and space this afternoon because your influence as individuals and as a Council will as I have said extend outside the boundaries of Kuching. I hope you will give thought to the future of this country and the role it has to play in this region of the world, because what you feel about the future will influence others. I think we should consciously follow an example which has proved of outstanding success in the world, the Dominions such as Australia or Canada. They have made astonishing progress in the last fifty years - they have remained staunchly members of the Commonwealth family, they have following and incidentally they are very good friends and admirers of ours.

“I read a very interesting letter in a newspaper the other day by a Canadian in which he bemoaned the bitterness and the discord which mark the progress to independence in most colonial territories. What he said was this: Canada had attained her complete independence without struggle, without even a whisper of rebellion and attained it at the time when she was ready for it not before and not after. It was British capital and industry, her engineers and administrators who built the prosperity she now enjoys. Over more than 100 years of tutelage Canada learnt the meaning and value of obligations of democratic citizenship. She gained her independence by stages and by degrees. Now, Canada is a plural society like Sarawak; she must have gone through all the same in difficulties and problems brought about by differences of races, language and religion yet she did it without bitterness, with no aftermath of suspicion and distrust, still less or hatred, and she did it slowly and in the own time. We can and will do the same here.

“Allow me to quote from a letter I received this Christmas from someone known to you all who made his mark in Sarawak after a regrettably short time here and was recently transferred to some distant land. He writes as follows: ‘Naturally we think a lot of you and Sarawak, and particularly of the new Constitution and how it is finding its feet. I may say, I really do think Sarawak has a unique chance to show the world how to grow in stature and achieve nationhood without bitterness, intolerance and rancour; how to live in racial harmony and mutual respect; and how to work together for the national good rather than merely that of party, race or creed. A world example of this seems sadly needed at the present time.’ These are complimentary words which will require some living up to. I have heard it suggested that the British element in our partnership will heave this country. I sincerely hope not. I hope the British will always be regarded as part and parcel of this country. We have our own contribution to make to progress and to the happiness and prosperity of this country as we have in the past and I hope that our particular British genius in certain directions blended with the genius of the other races which comprise our society will remain an integral part of the nation which is her being fashioned.

“There is one other very important matter to us - our neighbours. Within this island they consist of Indonesian Borneo, North Borneo and Brunei. We do not know much about Indonesian Borneo. They have met a great many difficulties because they were unprepared for the business of government. How they will regard us in the future is also a matter of uncertainty. They may of course cast jealous eyes on our prosperity or may leave us to our devices, at any rate. I think, we must leave them out of our reckoning for the present. North Borneo and Brunei are in the same school so to speak and the differences of race, language and wealth which we live with in Sarawak. We have seen Singapore and Malaya drift apart, to the detriment of each. We must avoid that here. We are all small countries and weak, and singly I fear we may not be treated by our neighbours with much

consideration but together speaking with a united voice we would be sure of a hearing. You Councillors who travel the three countries of Borneo can do much to foster good relations and a closer understanding, which is of course the preliminary to any closer political association. I am sure each of those countries wishes to retain its own identity and sovereignty but that should not rule out the closest co-operation in the solution of the many problems which we share.

“Mr. President and Councillors, it gives me great pleasure and pride to talk to you this afternoon and I am most grateful to you for your gracious invitation. I can assure you Mr. President of my confidence in your personally and in your Councillors and I can promise you my support and any assistance of which I am capable in the many tasks and problems which will confront you during your term of office.”

FIRST ORDINARY MEETING

After His Excellency's address a brief interval followed after which the President wished all Councillors a Happy New Year. On behalf of the President also extended the Council's a Happy New Year greetings to the Officers and staff of the Kuching Municipality and paid tribute to them for their loyalty and devotion to duty.

The President then congratulated Councillor Mrs. Kong Yu Siung on being awarded the M.B.E., and Mr. Andrew Hon for being awarded a Certificate of Honour by the Sarawak Government.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been passed the President read out Christmas and New Year greetings to the Council from the Governor, the Secretariat, and Mr. and Mrs. W. S. B. Buck. He also announced Mr. A. R. Meikle as the next Municipal Secretary.

The President then thanked Mr. C. E. Sandbach, the outgoing Municipal Secretary, for his unstinted services during his tenure of office and welcomed Mr. A. R. Meikle, whose past experience, he pointed out would be of great help to the Kuching Municipal Council.

The President also mentioned that while he was in Singapore on a brief visit he had the opportunity of conveying the Council's greetings to the City Council of Singapore.

Mr. C. E. Sandbach replying thanked the President for the kind words he had said about him.

In the course of the meeting many new Councillors made their speeches in public. Both debates and discussions were lively. The subjects raised showed clearly the interest which the Councillors were taking in the general welfare of the public. It was truly a different atmosphere from Council meetings of the past which usually took less than an hour, since this first meeting of the Council lasted for more than three hours.

Public interest to seemed to have been aroused judging by the numbers seated in the public galleries - a good and healthy sign for the future.

THE EARL OF PERTH

Kuching made a very favourable first impression on the Earl of Perth, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, and Lady Perth, when on the afternoon of the 7th of September a comprehensive tour of the Municipal area was successfully arranged.

Among the places visited by the distinguished visitors were the Kuching Municipal Offices. On arrival they were received by the President and Mr. A. R. Meikle, Municipal Secretary. In the course of the tour of the Council Building the visitors were introduced to the Heads of the various Sections.

Later after visiting St. Thomas's Cathedral, and the Supreme Court Building, Lord Perth

inspected the Kuching Fire Station where a guard of honour was mounted by the members of the fire-fighting units.

The tour of the day came to an end at the President's residence where light refreshments were served to the distinguished guests.

PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

On the 12th of October the President held a Press Conference in the Municipal Offices at which various developments to be undertaken by the Municipal Council in 1958 were discussed, with a warning that there might be increased rates in 1959.

He opened the meeting with the local Press and the Radio representatives with an expression of appreciation for the splendid co-operation they had given to the Council by conveying the truth to the public.

Then he sounded a warning that 1958 would be the last year in which the Council could afford to draw upon its surplus funds as resources from this quarter would be exhausted by the end of the next year.

He explained that the Council's revenue is derived from three sources: rates, licences, and Central Government Grants. He pointed out that as the last source was not likely to yield more than at present, the increase of rates and licences might have to be considered if the Municipality was to expand its services.

LINTANG BAZAAR

Provision had been made for establishing a bazaar at Batu Lintang, and that the layout of this project had already been approved by the Central Government; and also that as soon as ground-filling had been completed eighteen shop-lots would be put for public auction, with provision for a petrol kiosk, a theatre and a restaurant.

The President commented on the necessity of keeping the town clean, and declared that there was no doubt that a high standard of cleanliness in the town could only be achieved through the full co-operation of each member of the public, whatever services the Council could provide in this respect. For example, a good beginning could be made if every individual saw to it that refuse was placed in proper receptacles provide, and not littered about.

POULTRY MARKET

Commenting on a new Poultry Market for Kuching he said that the Council had earmarked a sum of \$130,000 for a new central market to be built in easy stages, near the site where the present market stands at Gambier Road, and that the Poultry Market would be housed in the new building which would be a two-storey one.

TABUAN ROAD

Referring to Tabuan Road he told the Council that Tabuan Road North had been widened and cut to a straighter road and had been opened to traffic recently. Tabuan Road South would also be reconstructed and thrown open to traffic soon, and the entire cost of reconstruction amounted to \$185,000, of which \$75,000. In bringing out the plan he commented on the heavy increase of traffic in Kuching in the past few years, particularly the increase of bicycles which had reached a total of

about 30,000 by 1957. He drew attention to the fact that this figure was higher than Holland's which, before the war, had boasted of the highest ratio of bicycle to every two people.

He explained that Kuching's Highway of the future would be an ultra-modern one with a central carriageway for motor vehicles, two side lanes for bicycles, and another two side lanes further away for pedestrians.

"TRIBUNES'S" COMMENTS ON PRESS CONFERENCE

"Information on various aspects of development towards the end of the Council Year, in the Kuching Municipality, as outlined by the President of the Council, at his press conference promises rate payers in Kuching better amenities in different fields. But there is sober warning that future developments would have to be carefully considered because there would be very little surplus, to draw from, by 1959. The surplus balances of the council have come almost to saturation point, and unless new sources of revenue are found the Council will not be able to undertake costly projects.

"There are still many projects to be carried out. There is of course the possibility of shelving these schemes when funds are not available. But we have been doing this so long in the past that we have still much to catch up. The choice is between holding back future plans and searching for new means of income. Action must be taken in advance to explore all possible channels of income before we actually face the problem.

"Channels open to the Council for earning revenue are limited. The two main categories lie on rates and licences. Unless other ideas are forthcoming the Council may have to increase rates and licences. Naturally the Council may have to stand up to a certain amount of unpopularity if measures are too be taken along this line. However, this may only be a short-lived passing phase if all measures introduced are based on an equitable basis. The public, on the other hands, must realise that they have to pay for the services they are to get."

PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO SAIGON

During a visit to the City of Saigon, as a member of the Sarawak delegation to the Ministerial Conference of the Colombo Plan, the President gained the impression that the people of the Republic of South Vietnam were keen on learning the English language due, apparently, to its universal usage.

This was not his first visit to the beautiful City of Saigon. The general layout of the City is planned like the City of Paris, with its beautiful boulevards and side walk cafes.

Incidentally, his first visit to Saigon was made seven years ago when the country (then known as French Indo-China) was under French rule.

The population of Saigon has increased immensely after the division of the country, due to the influx of refugees from the North. The people of south Vietnam are happy and fortunate indeed in having a President like President Ngo Dinh Diem.

THE CONFERENCE

The Colombo Plan Ministerial Conference was participated in by delegates from the Colombo Plan countries and other South and South-East Asian countries. Sarawak was represented by Mr. William Tan, the President as Ministerial Member and by Mr. Chin Shin Sen, the other Sarawak delegate, as Official Member.

The Conference was held from October 21 to October 24. The main object of the Ministerial Level Conference was to exchange views on the needs of the South and South-Asian countries.

The Conference, which was presided over by the South Vietnam Foreign Minister, was declared open by President Ngo Dinh Diem. Delegates from various countries addressed the Conference.

In his address to the Conference he said that the economic development of more backward countries as to improved living standards, could only be assisted by the more advanced and highly industrialised nations of the Colombo Plan, and that it would not have been possible for Sarawak itself to have proceeded as rapidly as it had done had it not been for the generous assistance of the Colombo Plan countries. He then gave a general account of Sarawak's Five Year Development Plan and stressed the need for more technical assistance in the field of economic, education, and communication developments. He added that the Ministers knew what was Sarawak's needs, and that, on their return to their own countries, they would discuss the matter with their governments.

Apart from the actual Conference itself matters were also discussed at official receptions where he met Ministers from other countries and discussed the needs of Sarawak with them.

Twenty-one countries participated in the Conference and he had no doubt that it was beneficial to the Asia countries at large.

He then congratulated the Malayan delegates on Malaya's attainment of Independence with the Commonwealth, and as a full member of the Colombo Plan.

Then a delegate from the United Kingdom, and three delegates from other nations, on behalf of the participating nations, proposed a vote of thanks to the host country for its magnificent work in the organization of a Conference of such magnitude and importance.

Apart from organizing the Conference, the host country also organized sight-seeing tours for the delegates to see as much of the country as possible.

On the whole the Conference was a great success and very well organized.

IMPRESSIONS OF SAIGON

After the Conference all delegates attending the conference were given an audience with President Ngo.

Asked about the terrorists bombing in Saigon, Mr. William Tan said: "We were not perturbed at all. In fact we didn't know about it until we read the English newspapers in Saigon." Moreover the incident had taken place quite far away from where we were staying.

He was glad to learn that gambling in the City of Cholon, four miles away from Saigon, had been stopped, and said that it was a change for the better. Incidentally the City was well known for its night clubs in pre-independence days.

Speaking of the people in general he remarked that they were very friendly with members of other communities. The people seemed to show a great desire and keenness for learning English. At the hotels where they were accommodated interpreters - mostly university graduates - were engaged. He was also informed that teachers of English were in great demand in Saigon today, and that they are in good business. Most of the Chinese, in Saigon, are engaged in trade and commerce.

In his opinion the trip was very interesting and a great experience.

BATU LINTANG TRAINING CENTRE AND SCHOOL

The Ninth Graduation Ceremony of the Batu Lintang Training Centre and School was held on the afternoon of the 21st November 1957. Presenting graduation certificates to student teachers on the

occasion he explained that facilities in Batu Lintang were slowly being built up to cater to Sarawak's needs for more trained teachers, and that it was here "were concentrated our hope in the accomplishment of our objective."

Deeming it both an honour and a pleasure to be given the opportunity to give away certificates to so many promising young men and women, who had successfully graduated, he said that it would be superfluous if he were to dwell at great length on the rapid manner in which Sarawak was developing, but that he believe it appropriate to re-emphasise how much there was to be done before a comparable standard in educational development in Sarawak could be reached.

"The task is a formidable one," he continued, "for not only do we need more accommodation and equipment, but a more adequate complement of trained teachers, and it is here in Batu Lintang, where facilities are slowly being built up to cater to our needs, that we concentrate our hope in the accomplishment of our objective. Batu Lintang's beginning has been a modest one, and, like all new things, its advent was not entirely free of prejudice and even suspicion. There is much to be said of the admirable efforts and conduct of both staff and students in the Centre that the phase of prejudice and suspicion has now given way to understanding and confidence. Graduates who have left these gates after their training, and are now progressively working in their own kampongs, longhouses, and elsewhere, have made Batu Lintang well known and better understood by the public.

"This institution is not confined to serving only the needs of the urban areas. Students come here from all over the country - the coasts, the ulu, and the interior. One of the most important aspects which I note in Batu Lintang is that, in spite of its central site in the capital of the country, where modern amenities are so easily within reach, these environments have not induced trainees to a tendency to become urbanised. It would be a sad day if this were so, and the fact that a great many, if not all, have placed vocation above other material comforts augurs well for the future."

He then went on to illustrate how past students of this school kept close contact with their alma mater through letters, and other means, in a regular manner, despite the difficult means of communications which separated them over such a widely scattered area. "This," he said, "spoke, more than anything which the students has assigned the institution in thier esteem."

"In Batu Lintang," he continued, "we are able to sow some of the seeds as represented by you, the young men and women, who have completed yours course of training which will build the next generation of the country into loyal and united citizens."

He then paid a tribute to the band of teachers who had made valuable contribution. Concluding he said: "Batu Lintang has been remarkably fortunate in the fact that though there has been a series of changes of principals, since its inception, all of them have been endowed with qualities and virtues which, in their own way, they have passes on to you and made the Centre what it is today. Credit must go to Mr. Godson, your present Principal and his team of teachers for the tremendous volume of hard work which they have put in to build up the Centre from strength to strength, and in their good hands the future augurs well."

LORD MAYOR OF LONDON'S MESSAGE OF GOODWILL

A message of goodwill was sent by teh Lord Mayor of the City of London, Mr. G. J. Cullum Welch, to the President and Members of the Kuching Municipal Council wishing the Council every success in their endeavours to look after the well-being of the citizens of Kuching. The message, which was read out by the Secretary of the Council, Mr. A. R. Meikle, at the Council's monthly meeting held on the 26th November, 1957, was sent through Mr. H. P. Pike, a Member of the Court of Common Council of the City of London who was then on a visit to Kuching.

The President of the Kuching Municipal Council sent a reply to the message of goodwill of the Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, expressing appreciation of the message received and reciprocating

the kind sentiments of the Mayor of a Corporation which was older by nearly 800 years.

LAST ORDINARY MEETING

The last Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal Year was held on Tuesday the 26th November, 1957.

1. Street Lighting:

One of the subjects discussed at the Meeting was street lighting for Temple Street. Councillors were pleased to hear an announcement, made by the Municipal Secretary, that street lighting would be extended to Temple Street too, and that the lighting projects was below that estimated by the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company, Limited.

2. Afternoon Sessions:

A communication was received by the Standing Committee for Education of the Kuching Municipal Council from the Divisional Education Officer, Mr. A. G. Smith, to the effect that 164 pupils had applied for admission to the Municipal School at Kampong Lomba Kuda, and that one class might have to leave at the end of the year to make room for new entrants unless extra classrooms were provided for at the end of 1958.

The Committee, after a discussion, recommended that the applicants be accepted and that, should the need arise in 1959, afternoon sessions could be held as an alternative to cope with the extra classes when the 1958 intake moves up to Primary II.

The recommendation to that effect, made by the Committee at its Meeting on November 18th, was adopted by the Municipal Council at its last Ordinary Meeting for the year.

This alternative step was taken when it was noted that no extensions were planned to be made to the school during 1958 due to lack of funds.

3. Septic Tank:

The Works Committee of the Kuching Municipal Council recommended that a septic tank be constructed in the back lane of Khoo Hun Yeang Street to serve the Council's offices and the block of eight shops immediately behind the Municipal Offices, in view of the fact that the present septic tank, which is being used by the three establishments of which the Council is one, is far too small to give satisfactory services. The recommendation was approved by the Council at its Ordinary Meeting.

4. Batu Lintang Service Station:

The Director of Lands and Surveys tabled for adoption a letter suggesting that the Service Station at Batu Lintang should be sited on Lots 1 and 2, to be amalgamated and separated from Lot 3 with a ten-foot firebreak, and stating that this proposal had been rejected by the Committee for Lands and Surveys which, after consideration, had put up an alternative suggestion instead, on the ground that the Director's suggestion would detract from the uniform appearance of the shop blocks.

The Committee's suggestion was that the green open space at the north-western corner of the Batu Lintang layout should be zoned as a service station site to be so designed that access to it would be from the bazaar service roads.

The Kuching Municipal Council, after due deliberation, decided to adopt the recommendation of the Committee instead.

5. President's Address:

Presiding at the last Ordinary Meeting before the conclusion of his year of office as the first President of the Kuching Municipal Council, the President thanked the Vice-President, Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, and all Councillors for the valuable support and assistance which they had given him in carrying out his duties.

Continuing he said: "I also wish to express appreciation of the encouragement given by His Excellency the Governor to the Council during its first year as a freely elected Council, and to thank the Heads of Departments of Government for their co-operation, and that of their officers, in the various matters in which a spirit of mutual assistance and understanding between the Central Government and the Council is essential."

He concluded by expressing gratitude to the Council Staff for the assistance rendered by them in the efficient discharge of their duties.

6. Election of New President:

Before the Meeting concluded an election was held and Mr. William Tan was re-elected President of the Kuching Municipal Council for the next Municipal Year from 1st December, 1957 to 30th November, 1958, defeating the only other Nominee, Mr. Ong Kee Hui by 17 votes to 9. There was only one nomination for the Vice-President, - Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce. He was declared duly elected as Vice-President for the second time.

"THE SARAWAK TRIBUNES" COMMENTS ON FIRST YEAR

"The Kuching Municipal Council has carried through a year's activities under an all and freely elected body with flying colours ... Through all the debates ... the differences of views ... that spirit of teamwork guided ... by common sense prevailed ... A happy blend which ... the fundamental basis on which a stabilised body is built.

"Mr. William Tan's re-election for a second term of office must be generally considered as reflecting the confidence which his fellow councillors have had in his leadership and conduct during the year. The margin of majority votes which he has acquired should ensure for him an even greater degree of support for the coming year ...

"The Council can ... take pride in its accomplishments ... in the course of its first year. There have been admittedly not many spectacular results. But the smooth process of day-to-day administration, and the manner in which planing and organization has been carried out do set an example of co-operative teamwork ...

"As the country progresses and expands Kuching's position grows correspondingly in importance and the Municipality will undoubtedly have an even bigger role to play. Its task is just beginning. Not only will wise and good leadership but also close teamwork be needed to build up a civic body that can contribute ... prestige to the capital ... Only in a strong team can a leader rely for support, and the organization be made an efficient ... machine."

OFFICIAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR

His excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Foster Abell took a keen interest in the progress of Council affairs. He attended the opening of the new Fire Station by the President on 13th April.

His Excellency made an informal inspection of the various works in progress in the Municipality

with the President in early part of July.

The Right Hon'ble the Earl of Perth, P.C., Minister of State for Colonial Affairs accompanied by Lady Perth toured the Municipality with the President on 5th September, 1957.

Other visitors who called on the President and were conducted round the Municipality included Mr. R. E. Hales, Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company, Limited and a member of the Brunei State Council and Dr. Wong Tsio Yong, Vice-President for Asia of the Junior Chamber of Commerce International.

The President's version of a new highway in the Municipality of Kuching to cope with ever increasing density of the traffic. The President stressed particularly on the increase of bicycles which has now reached a staggering figure of 30,000. He compared this figure with that of Holland which before the war, had the highest ratio of bicycles, but Kuching has now topped that with a ratio of one bicycle to every two persons.

The new version of Kuching's highway, as shown in the artist's impression, will have a central carriageway for motor vehicles, two side-lanes for bicycles and two foot-paths for pedestrians.

A YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The road destined for the first President of the Kuching Municipal Council was rough as anticipated and was by no means like sleeping on a bed of roses.

I was fully aware that a new born babe needs more of its mother's love and care to nurture it to maturity. I, therefore, invited the Councillors to co-operate as one united body for the betterment of Kuching. This I am glad had been achieved since but for the close teamwork it would not have been possible to carry through our activities as we have done.

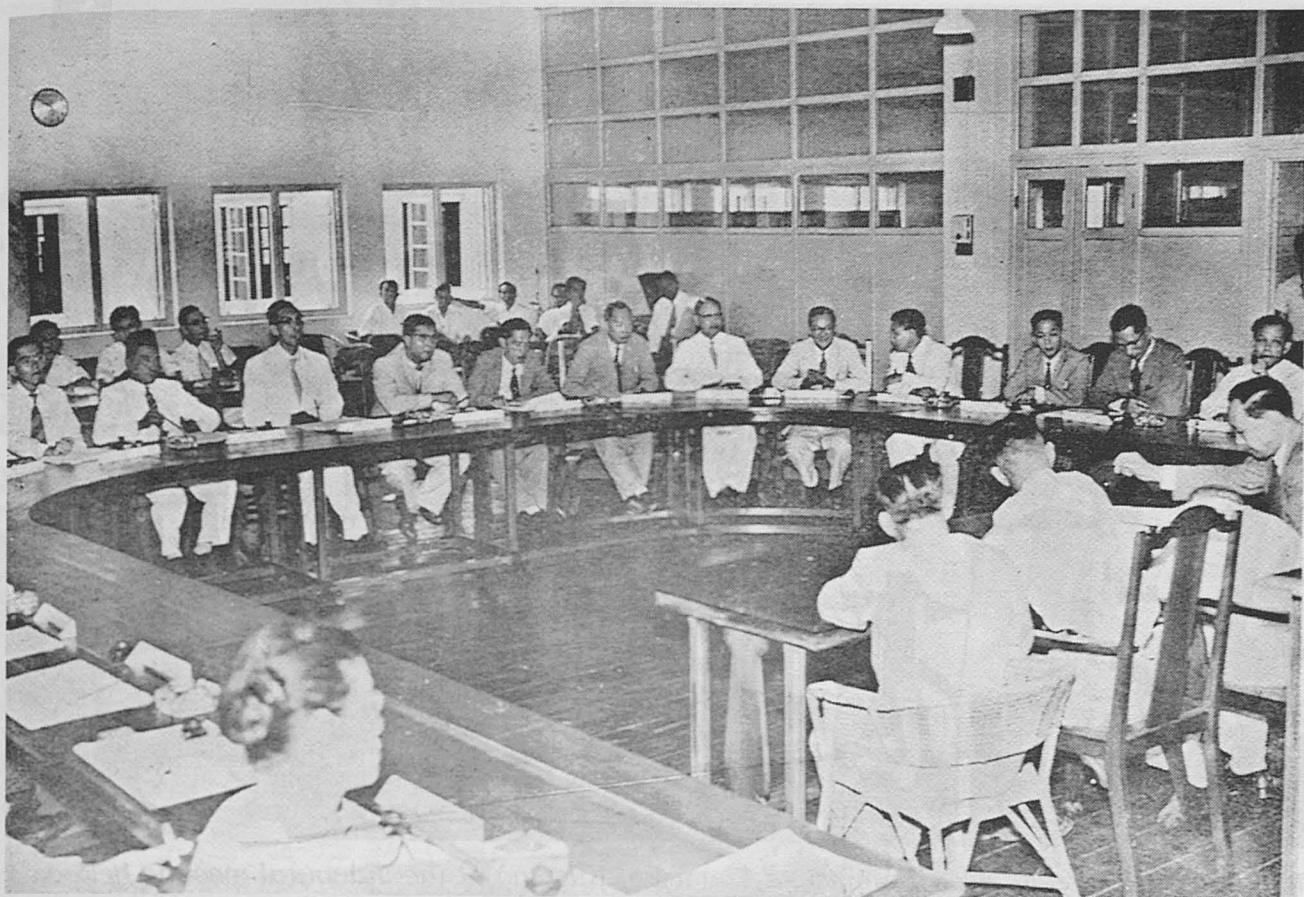
Without apology, I may see that we can take pride in our achievements in the first year. We may not have produced anything spectacular, but to have achieved a measure of success in administration is in itself a matter of legitimate pride.

My heavy duties have been lightened by the encouragement given me by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, when I paid a courtesy call at the Astana, soon after the Presidential election, accompanied by the former Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council. His Excellency assured me that he would write to all Heads of Departments and ask them, to extend their co-operation and help to the new fully elected Council.

Such encouragement and guidance has given me confidence in discharging my duties and responsibilities to the 60,000 population of this Municipality. I felt that it was my duty to work for the solidarity and the welfare of the citizens of Kuching; and for such encouragement and guidance as given me by His Excellency the Governor, I am fully indebted.

Our task has just commenced. As the country progresses we will have an ever increasing role to play. Let us hope we shall be able to play that role in the future.

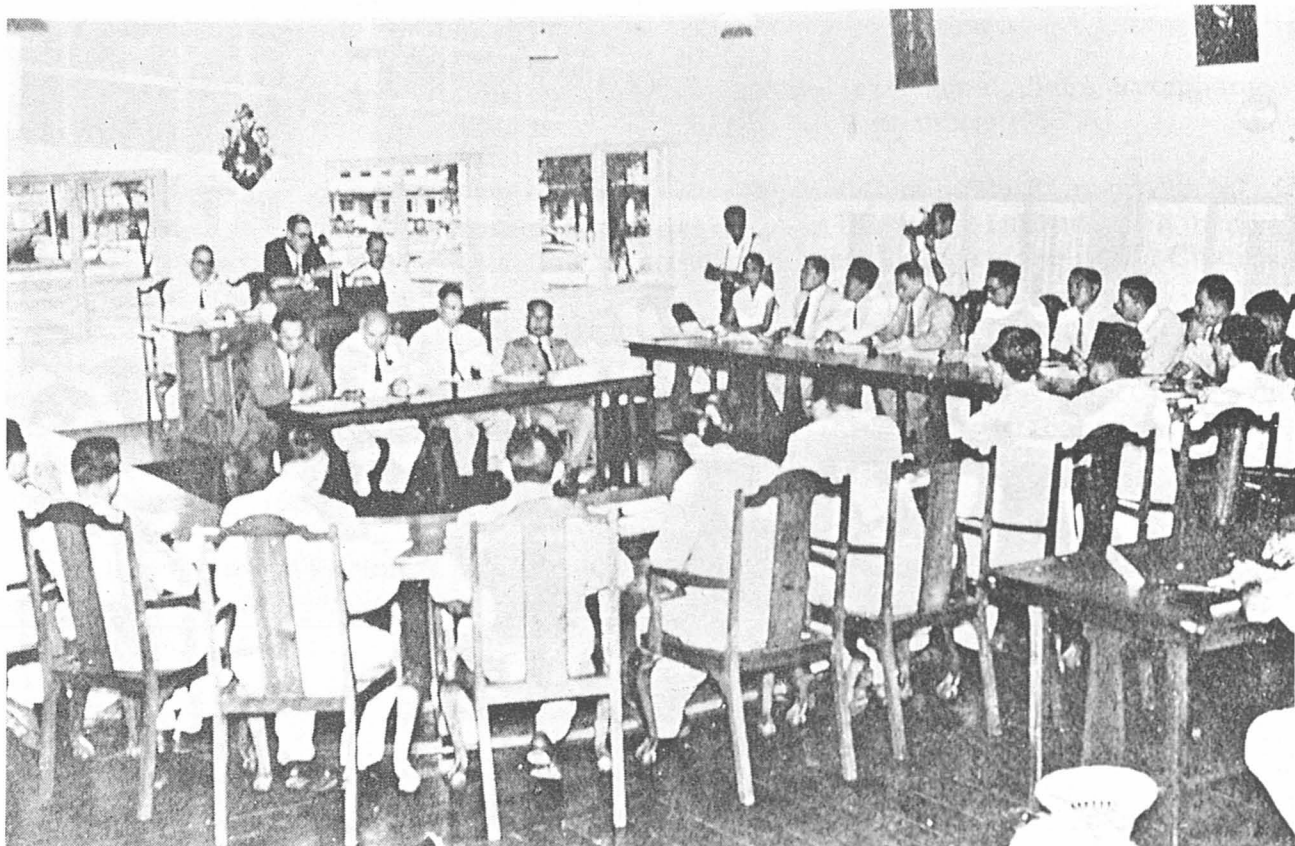
WILLIAM TAN,
President,
Kuching Municipal Council



View of the first freely elected Municipal Council of Kuching at the inaugural meeting held on 1st December, 1956.



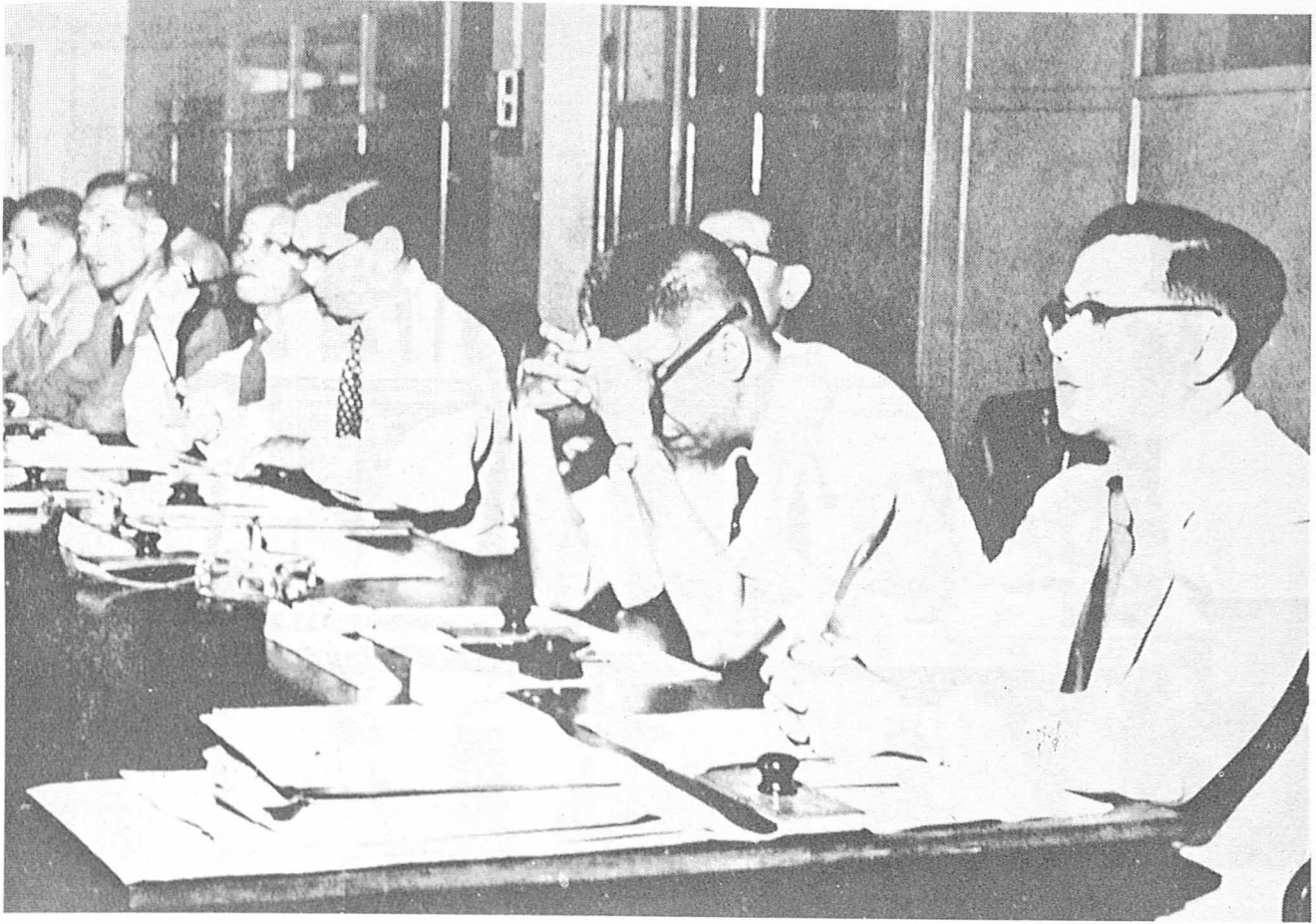
Another view of the new Council.



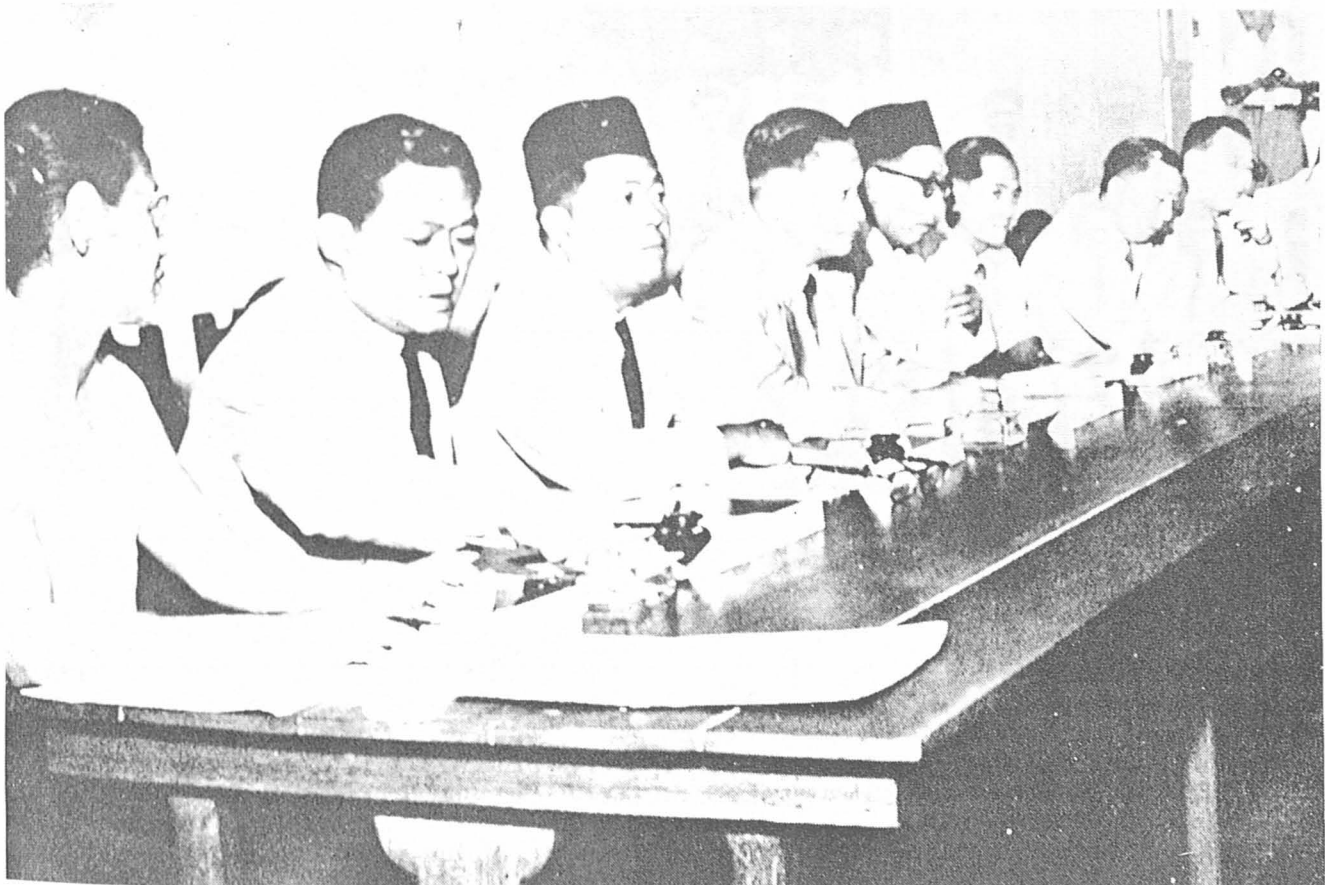
View of the first freely elected Municipal Council of Kuching at the inaugural meeting held on 1st December, 1956 before the election of the President.



*The former Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, J. C. B. Fisher Esq., O.B.E. addresses the new Council prior to the election of the first President.
On Mr. Fisher's right, C. E. Sandbach Esq., retiring Municipal Secretary, on his left, A. R. Meikle Esq., Municipal Secretary designate.*



View of the first freely elected Municipal Council of Kuching at the inaugural meeting held on 1st December, 1956.



Inaugural meeting of the first freely elected Municipal Council of Kuching.



Mr. William Tan making his first presidential speech after election.



INAUGURAL MEETING OF KUCHING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, 1st DECEMBER, 1956.

FRONT ROW: Cr. Haji Su'ut Tahir, Cr., Ikhwani bin Abang Haji Zainie, Cr. Song Thian Cheok, Cr. Ong Kee Hui, Cr. Teo Kui Seng, Vice-President of the Council (Cr. Ahmad Zaidi Aducci), President of the Council (Cr. William Tan), Cr. Mrs. Kong Yu Siung, M.B.E., Cr. John Lee Nyuk Syn, Cr. Dawi bin Abdul Rahman, Cr. Haji Mohd. Rambli bin Haji Leman, Cr. Yeo Cheng Hoe and Cr. Fang Kuan Lin.

SECOND ROW: Cr. Mohd. bin Haji Bakri, Cr. Sim Joo Sek, Cr. Ee Ghim Yam, Cr. Henry Ong Kee Chuan, Cr. Chan Siaw Hee, Cr. Stephen Kuet Tze Yong, Cr. Shii Dai Seng, Cr. Law Heng Choon, Cr. Tan Tak Seng, Cr. Lo Foot Kee, Municipal Health Officer (Mr. J.S. Haworth), Clerk to the Council (Mr. Tan Nyit Chin), and Acting Municipal Engineer (Mr. C. Y. Wang).

THIRD ROW: Cr. Francis Tan Eng Chong, Cr. Goh Hong Kee, Cr. Thian Ho, Cr. Chin Poh Luke, Municipal Valuer (Mr. Kho Chong Seng), Municipal Secretary designate (Mr. A. R. Meikle) and Municipal Secretary (Mr. C. E. Sandbach).



His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G., addresses the Kuching Municipal Council at the first ordinary meeting held on 28th December, 1956.

There are six races in the island of Borneo, the largest of which is the Chinese, followed by the Malays, the Iban, the Dayak, the Melanau and the Bidayuh.

Another annual will be written when the President of the Kuching Council, Mr. William Tan, presides at the official opening of the new station and the four-storey flats at the junction of Cecil Street East and Robinson Road on 1st April, 1957. It is the first of a series of projects which will be carried out by the Council.

The new Fire Station and Flats - one of the Kuching Municipal Council's latest and biggest projects - are now completed and occupied by the personnel of the Council's Fire Brigade.

The magnificent, multi-coloured buildings, which are the central point of attraction to Kuching, are estimated to cost in the region of £275,000, or which \$100,000 is Central Government's grant.

The new buildings' complete contrast to the old, lowly, wooden Fire Station at First Hill Street, add yet another landmark to the Kuching Municipal Council's housing estate in that area. Mr. Tan, a young architect, is designing the new station and flats to be built on the site of the old station.

A considerable amount of planning work has been carried out on the site to enable it to withstand the heavy concrete buildings.

After the war he did his own farming business but he joined the Medical Department in 1947. He was called to join the Marine Department in 1952 and he was promoted to the rank of Major in 1954.

After the war he joined the Municipal Department in 1952 and he was promoted to the rank of Major in 1954. The new Fire Station building, which takes the former Happy World, now houses all the fire-fighting engines and equipment, trailer pumps and vehicles, and the superintendent's office on the ground-floor; living quarters, which include mess room, kitchen, reading room, bathroom, and



The new K.M.C. three-storey Fire Station at the junction of Central Road East and Padungan Road.

An Achievement of pride

Another annal will be written when the President of the Kuching Council, Mr. William Tan, performs the official opening of the new three-storey Fire Station and the four-storey Flats at the junction of Central Road East and Padungan Road on Saturday, April 13, 1957.

The new Fire Station and Flats - one of the Kuching Municipal Council's latest and biggest projects - are now completed and occupied by the personnel of the Council's Fire Brigade.

The magnificent, multi-coloured buildings, which are the central point of attraction to Kuching residents, are estimated to cost in the region of \$370,000, of which \$100,000 is Central Government's grant.

The new buildings, a complete contrast to the old drab-looking Fire Station at Khoo Hun Yeang Street, add yet another landmark to the Kuching Municipal Council's housing estate in that area.

They now stand on the once mosquito-infested, or perhaps, crocodile-infested swampy lands.

A considerable amount of piling work has been carried out on the site to enable it to withstand the heavy concrete buildings.

ALL-IN-ONE

The new Fire Station building, which faces the former Happy World, now houses all the fire-fighting engines and equipment, trailer pumps and vehicles, and the Superintendent's office on the ground-floor; living quarters, which include mese room, kitchen, reading room, bathrooms, and

internal modern sanitation, for the unmarried personnel of the Brigade on the first-floor; and the Superintendent's quarters on the top-floor. There is also a store room at the building. There are very fine balconies overlooking Central Road on each of the first and top-floors of the new Fire Station building.

The Fire Station is equipped with two "Dennis" trailer pumps, two convertible vehicles, and a complete up-to-date fire engine. The fire engine is also equipped with first-aid kits.

STAFF ACCOMMODATION

The Superintendent's quarters on the top-floor has two bedrooms; one convertible living rooms, dining hall, kitchen, bathroom and internal sanitation.

There are living accommodations for the sixteen married personnel of the Fire Brigade at the four storey Flats, adjacent to the fire station. There are four apartments on each storey, and each apartment has two bedrooms, living-dining room, kitchen, bathroom, internal sanitation and a "rubbish chute".

All the married quarters are uniform. There are two stairways on each storey and on each stairway and on each stairway there is an alarm bell controlled by an electric switch which is installed at the Superintendent's office at the station.

The Council also provides the Brigade with furniture for the quarters, spring beds for the unmarried men and kerosene stoves for cooking purposes.

It is hoped that the unmarried men will also be provided with 'lockers' for their personal belongings.

The unmarried men do their own cooking and laundry and they are provided with kerosene stoves - one for Muslim and the other for Singapore City Council's Fire Station at Hill Street.

There are six races in the Brigade comprising Malays, Sea Dayak, Land Dayak, Chinese, Melanau and Indonesians.

One of the old-service firemen who is still with the brigade is Leading Firemen Juli bin Awang Tengah. He left the Brigade during the Cession, but was the first man to rejoin shortly afterwards. Others who also left rejoined after him.

THE FORCE

The total strength of the Fire Brigade is 33, made up of one Superintendent, two Foremen, four Leading Firemen and the rest firemen.

The whole Fire Brigade is under the charge of the Kuching Municipal Engineer, Mr. S.A. Barlow.

The Superintendent of the Brigade is 48-year-old Mr. Anthony Harry, a Melanau, Mr. Harry was educated at the St. Joseph's School, Kuching, and on leaving school joined the Health Department as a Sanitary Inspector in 1926. He left the Department in 1939. During his 13 years in the Health Department he had also been transferred to the Medical Department as a Dresser.

After leaving the Medical Department he did his own farming business, but just before the second world war broke out he was called to join the Marine Department as a Coastal Guard Officer.

After the war he joined the Municipal Department as a Municipal Inspector and in 1952 he filled the vacancy in the fire Brigade at the old station at Khoo Hun Yeang Street. At the end of that year he was sent to Singapore on a six-month fire-fighting course.

DUTIES

The Brigade is divided into two shifts - a day shift and a night shift - each shift consisting of about 14 men, giving allowance for those on leave or on sick leave.

The normal routine work of the company when not answering any fire call is to do a combined fire-drill, physical drill, double-marching in the mornings on alternate days; kit inspection every Friday; and putting the fire-fighting equipment and engines in tip-top condition.

On Saturdays all the fire-pumps, water-tower tanks, and hydrants are inspected. There is also a break once a week for fire-fighting practices. These practises are essential to train the men to be efficient. Besides practising fire-fighting the men also learn first-aid techniques. Alertness is the watch-word of the men and everyman is trained to be so. Even on off-duty hours a man may be called out for duty in case of an emergency.

Each fireman is provided free three sets of dark blue uniforms, two pairs of boots, a forrage-cap, and other necessary equipment.

RECREATION

The Superintendent hopes to have literature available for the reading room in the bachelor's quarters, which, at the moment, is still bare except for the furniture.

Some firemen attend the Adult Educational night class to improve their education knowledge.

As for the recreation the Brigade has it own football team which is currently competing in the K.F.A. Junior League tournament.

It is hoped that indoor games will be available. Already a business firm has taken the initiative in donating a set of darts.

FIRE CALLS

The present system of making a fire call is by telephone. There is a fireman on duty every minute at the telephone in the Superintendent's office. Whenever there is a call the fireman on duty will take down the necessary particulars and immediately passes the message to the Superintendent who will then make the alarm for the turn-out. It must be remembered that there are two shifts on duty at the station and the first turn-out will be by those on duty. If necessary, the second turn-out will be called - the second turn-out is made up of those men who are on off duty.

There will be no difficulty in locating a big fire-out-break, but in small fire the caller is usually asked to wait at the place from where he makes the call and then will direct the Brigade of the location of the outbreak. It must be borne in mind that nor every shophouses or premises or residential house is installed with a telephone and the caller usually makes the call from the nearest available telephone. In most cases the caller usually gets excited and nervous when calling for the Brigade.

SERVICE

One very important matter which the Municipal Engineer wants to clarify is the services of the Fire Brigade. Certain sections of the people who are also willing to render their assistance.

The Kuching Fire Brigade not only trains its own men, but also men engaged by the Airport squad and from outstations.

The firemen are now quite well off for the Council has recently introduced a Provident Fund scheme for them.

A familiar sight in by-gone days which has now disappeared is the flushing of the markets by members of the Brigade. This has now been stopped, and obviously for good reasons.

Asked whether the present strength of the Brigade is adequate to meet any emergency, Mr. Barlow says that it is so. Usually when the Fire squad goes to answer a fire-call the Police are also informed, and the Police help in controlling the crowds and help fight the fire as well. There are some public spirited minded public are of the opinion that the services of the fire brigade are chargeable.

"This is not so," Mr. S.A. Barlow emphasises. "The services of the Fire Brigade to the general public are free." No one is liable to any fee when making a genuine call for the Fire Brigade.

President Opens New Fire Station Another Kuching Showpiece

Newest and latest showpiece of Kuching, the new Fire Brigade station at Padungan Road, was last Saturday morning officially opened by the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, in the presence of the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, the Chief Secretary, Mr. J.H. Ellis, Municipal Councillors and guests.

Bunting and pot plants were the only form of decoration and this very simplicity added all the more impression to an already impressive building.

Firemen, spic and span in their navy blue uniform, lined the front of the building and stood erect at attention on the arrival of the Governor. Sir Anthony, accompanied by the President, then inspected this Guard of Honour, after which Mr. Tan proceeded to perform the official opening ceremony.

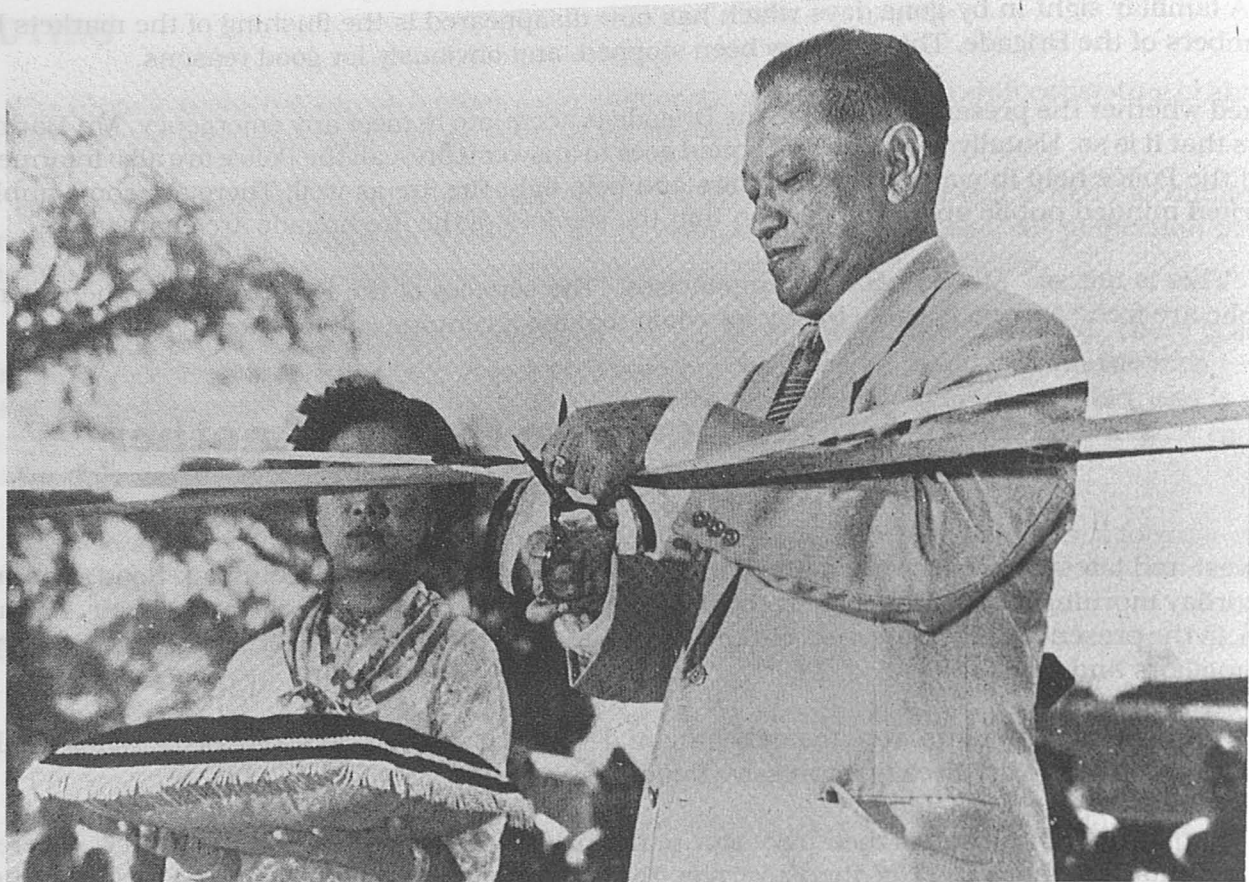
In his address of welcome Mr. Tan reminded his audience of the old Fire Station which had long outlived its allotted span. You will agree, he added, that considering the difficult conditions under which they lived, the Fire Brigade maintained a remarkable degree of efficiency. They now receive their just reward. As you can see, finishing touches are still required, but we considered it desirable to move the Fire Brigade in as soon as the buildings were usable.

Mr. Tan revealed that the final cost of the buildings was expected to be in the region of \$370,000, and the Council was indebted to the Central Government for a grant of \$100,000 towards the cost of these buildings.

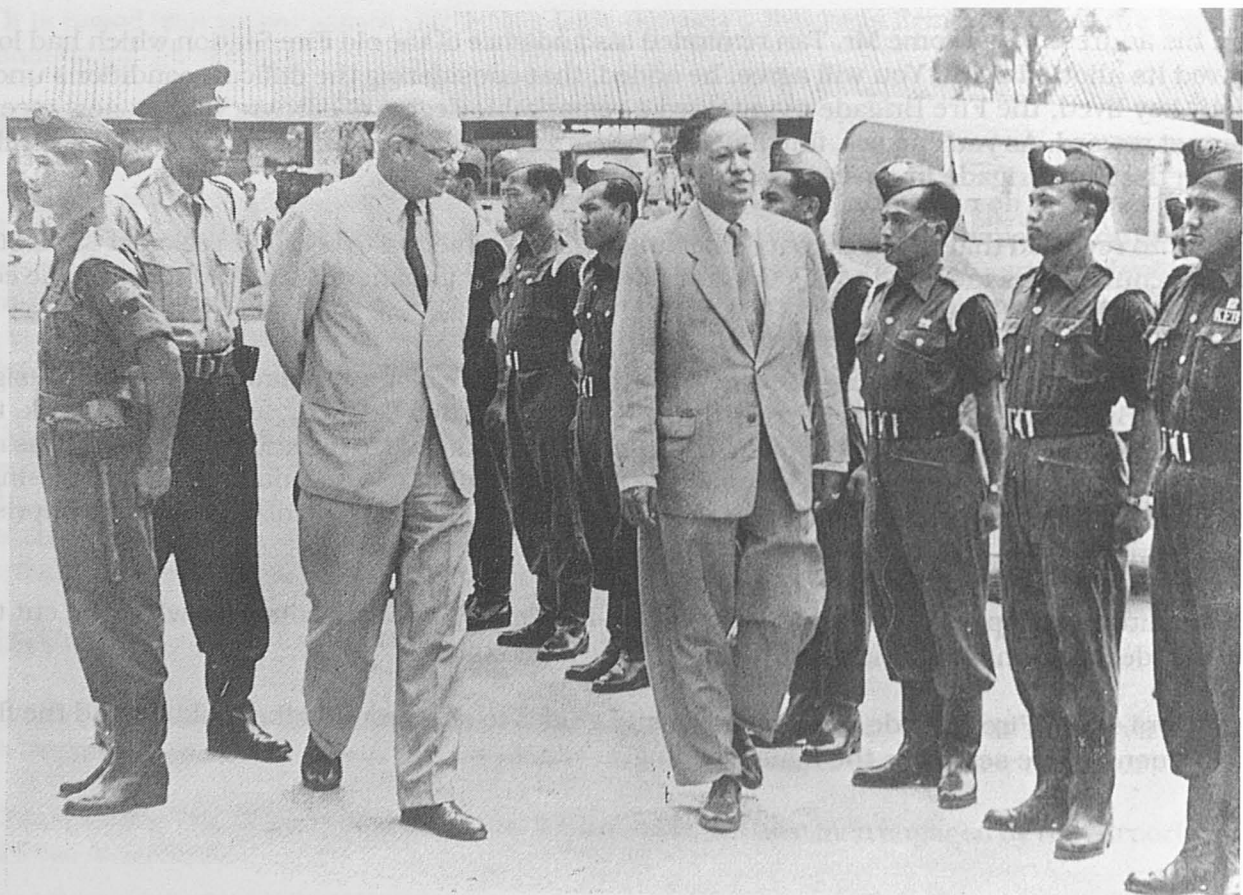
Congratulating the Architects, Messrs. Swan and MacLaren for a very modern and fine design, and to the Building Contractors, Messrs. Shing Kee Construction Co., Ltd., for their good work, the President said the work of piling commenced in June 1955, and due to technical difficulties, was not completed until December, 1995. The main fire station building has accommodation for 16 single men on the first floor and above that is the Superintendent's flat. The block of flats behind comprises married quarters for 16 families.

Concluding his speech the President was then handed a pair of scissors with which he cut the tape and declared the building open.

Officers of the Fire Brigade acted as hosts and guides to show rounds the building and the flat. Refreshments were served in the main building.



Mr. William Tan, the President cutting the ribbons to declare open the new Kuching Fire Brigade Station.



His Excellency seen inspecting a Guard of Honour furnished by the Kuching Fire Brigade accompanied by the President, Mr. William Tan.

Changing Landmark



Another landmark which links Kuching of the present era with that of the past will soon pass into history and later into oblivion when the old three-storey "classical type" building that stands prominently on the hillock at the junction of Padungan and Thomson Roads and facing the river front is dismantled to make way for a modern sky line of lock up shops, a Restaurant and a Theatre hall.

Dismantling work had already, in fact begun for some time. The hard earth which made up the hillock on which the building stands has been the scene of busy activity in the past weeks as men started levelling the ground and it will only be a matter of days before dismantling work on the old building itself is begun.

A typical Chinese architectural masterpiece this building (see picture) is probably the only one left for such a long time. Built 60 years ago it was the property of the late Mr. Tan Boon Seng a wealthy sago factory proprietor and has since changed hands several times. It was purchased by Mr. William Tan a few years ago.



This house was the largest and best Chinese home yet built and at that time it cost only \$14,000. Chinese carpenters, masons and some good material were imported from China specially for the construction of this building.

The embossed flowers made of various pieces of porcelain were skillfully executed by craftsmen and the carvings on wood are a wealth of oriental splendour which modern workmen shink to think of undertaking such

delicate art.

Mr. William Tan, well-known local builder and architect whose work in connection with many major and fine buildings in Sarawak stand as evidence of his creative skill, had added another score in his list of successes in the creation of this new building of which he is the sole proprietor.

The idea of combining a theatre hall with an arcade for commercial purposes is not a new one in capitals of the world but in Kuching it presents a new feature which is both attractive and practical, and there is confidence that the public will in time to come appreciate its usefulness. The Arcade contains 10 shop blocks (two large and eight small lots) which are to be used for trading purposes. Of uniform design these shops have large show windows which afford window display to the greatest advantage. It is understood that all these premises are now occupied.

The Odeon cinema itself is designed with the aim of providing facilities both for stage and screen performances. The stage is constructed to meet the ever changing phases of cinema entertainment and includes provisions for cinemascope and such like. For stage shows a large orchestral pit is also provided. Projectors and sound effects are supplied by Messrs. Westrex Co (Asia) Ltd. formerly Western Electric Co of Asia. Catering for four classes of seats with a wide balcony on the top floor the hall has accommodation for 1,200.

Over the main facade of the building which is enlightened throughout projects a dominating tower which overlooks a flat roof that can either be used as a beer garden at present or provide the foundation for upward expansion in the future. A spacious car park constructed on the side of the building will provide convenience to patrons.

The overall cost of the new building is understood to be in the region of \$400,000.

Odeon Formally Opened In 1955 Two Institution Benefit



Two institution - ATAS and the Boys Scouts Association are expected to benefit substantially from the proceeds which were derived from the premiere performance of the film "Remains to be seen" which are screened on Thursday night at the odeon Theatre on its formal opening.

Boy Scouts flanked the corridor of the odeon Arcade just before 6.15 p.m on Thursday to form a Guard of Honour for the arrival of Mrs. A. R. Snelus, wife of the Acting Deputy Chief Secretary, who had been invited to perform the official opening of the new Theatre.



Mrs. Snelus was received on her arrival by the Proprietor of the Theatre, Mr. William Tan, the Lord Bishop of Borneo (representing the Boy Scouts Association) and MR. Tan Kui Choon (Chairman of the ATAS Council).

The party then proceeded to the stage which was decorated with floral baskets presented by well wishers for the success of the new Theatre.

In inviting Mr. Snelus to perform the opening, Mr. William Tan first expressed his thanks to all present for so readily giving support to two very worthy causes.

"The building of a Cinema Hall is not a new thing here," he said, "though it is to be admitted that not one is built every year - but in planning this project - the Odeon Theatre and Arcade, the result of which you see this evening, it is hoped that it will not only provide good entertainment to the public but also to serve some of their immediate needs at the same time.

"Many fine new buildings and ambitious projects materialising here in the course of the past few years are concrete evidence of the progress we are making in this country, and I hope that this new building here will be in its modest way add to the faith and confidence which we all have in the future prosperity of Sarawak."

Mr. Tan Kui Choon, Chairman of ATAS Council then said:

On behalf of ATAS I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. William Tan very sincerely for his generous gesture by offering us half of tonight's proceeds on this gala opening of the odeon Theatre.

The ATAS Council contemplates building a Sanatorium in the future and you can be rest assured that the money forthcoming from tonight's collection would be very useful indeed.

The object of ATAS is to combat Tuberculosis in the Colony of Sarawak by all available means which include the provision of relief to dependants of sufferers from the dreadful disease. We need funds to foster this object and I therefore appeal to the members of the general public for their help and generosity.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kind support this evening and I am sure that you would like to join with me in wishing Mr. William Tan every success in his new enterprise.

The Lord Bishop of Borneo, the Rt. Rev. Nigel Cornwall said he was happy to be representing the Boy Scouts association of Sarawak. "We want to thank Mr. William Tan for his generosity in giving half the proceeds of this evening's entertainment to the Association towards the erection of the Headquarter's building Fund.

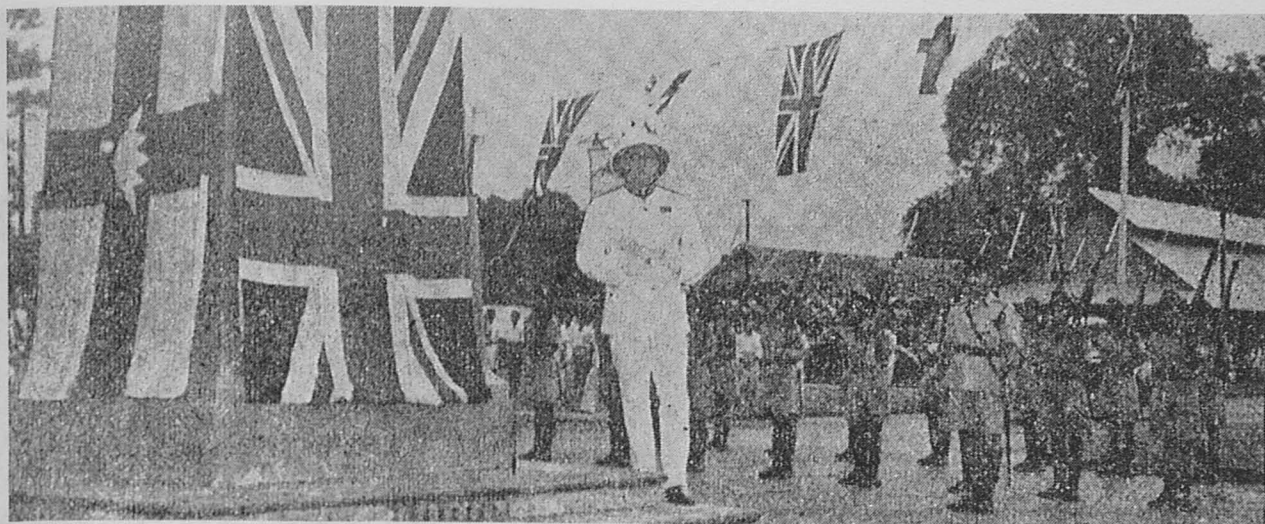
"Scouting is a magnificent way of inspiring and guiding the youth of the country along right and good channels. It develops resourcefulness and unselfishness, and demands high standards of truthfulness, honesty and good living.

"We are all concerned to try to give to you the best we can, and that best Discipline plays a very large part Scouting inculcates discipline without the regimentation of army training; it maintains strict discipline through the positive and constructive means of loyalty to one's brother scout, giving every boy a chance of exercising good fellowship and service within the framework of discipline and freedom and making his own contribution to the welfare of the whole body.

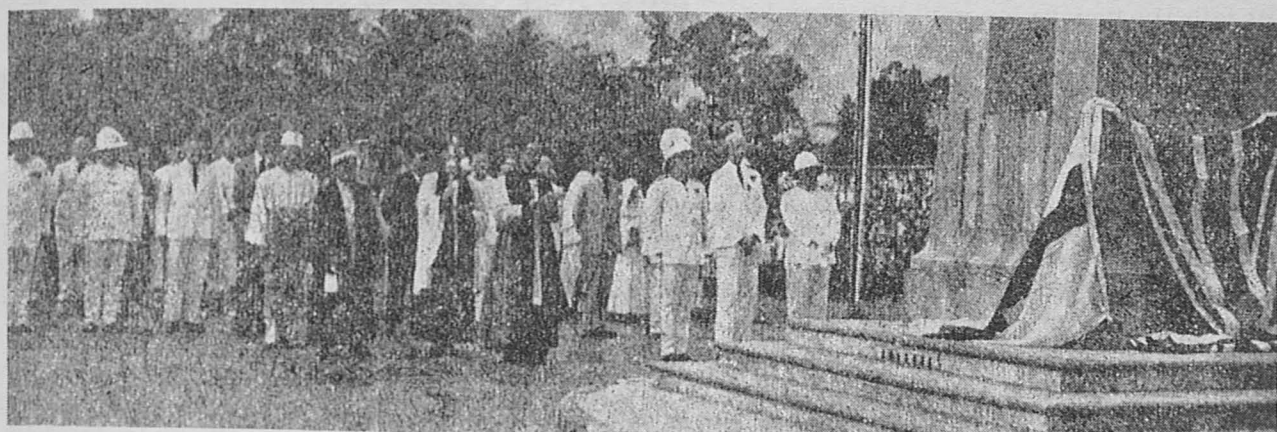
"The erection of a headquarters building, and the consequent better organisation of the Scout movement in Sarawak are urgent needs, and I commend this cause very sincerely to the generous support of the public. Mr. William Tan is himself a member of the Scout Council; and in his generous help he is showing himself to be a true Scout. This generosity is characteristic of the man, and on behalf of the Association I thank him - and all of you present tonight - most warmly".

Mast. Ngui Lim Lee than handed over to Mrs. Snelus the pair of scissors with which she cut open the tape holding the screen and in declaring the theatre open she took the opportunity of wishing it every success. After the opening Mrs. Snelus was presented with a bouquet of white carnations and Arachnis Alba by Miss Catherine Tan, the daughter of Mr. William Tan.

There were packed audiences at the two houses.



His Excellency the Governor reading a message from High Highness the Rajah.



The Right Rev. the Bishop of Borneo dedicating the memorial.

Sarawak Remembers

The Sarawak War memorial at Padungan, Kuching, dedicated to the memory of C.D. Le Gros Clark, Officer Administering the Government, and to all those of all races who lost their lives as a result of the enemy occupation of Sarawak during the late war, was unveiled, at a simple yet impressive ceremony, by His Excellency the Governor at 9.30 a.m. on November the 11th, 1951.

A large crowd of official guests and spectators had assembled by 9.15 a.m., including the British Resident, Brunei, the Resident, and District Officer, Miri, the General Manager and senior officials of the British Malayan Petroleum company, Seria and many others of all races who had lost relatives and friends during the war and the occupation.

We now quote from the "Sarawak Tribune" of November the 12th.

"Union Jacks and Sarawak flags were the only decoration around the Memorial Clock Tower which was surrounded by guards of honour formed by the Sarawak Constabulary, Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts; officials, invited guests and a large congregation made up of members of the public. His Excellency the governor, accompanied by the A.D.C. Abang Othman, arrived at 9.30 a.m., and proceeded to the base of the Memorial where His Excellency took the Royal Salute."

Before unveiling the Memorial His Excellency said: "I have received a message for you from His Highness the Rajah; it was given to me by Mr. Alpin who is representing His Highness at this morning's service of dedication. The message reads as follows: "On this solemn occasion the Rane"

and I would like you to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the relatives of all those who lost their lives so courageously for Sarawak and for the cause of freedom in World War II. I would also like to express my appreciation to those who arranged this lasting memorial to those gallant men and women who will always be remembered as friends of myself and my family”.

“This clock tower which I am about to unveil commemorates the men and women of every race and of every creed who gave their lives for Sarawak in the war against the Japanese. We who were spared, in humility and gratitude pay this tribute to their fortitude and sacrifice and dedicate this memorial to their undying memory. On us falls the heavy responsibility to make sure, as far as lies within our power, that their sacrifice was not in vain. We pray that future generations of Sarawak citizens will pass this place in peace and security, and staying awhile to read the inscriptions hereon, may feel something of our pride and gratitude for the heavy price that was paid for their freedom and happiness. Today we remember and honour Cyril Drummond Le Gros Clark, Officer Administering the Government, and his comrades



Mr. R.G. Aikman, C.M.G., Chief Secretary lays a wreath on behalf of the Government of Sarawak.



H.E. the Governor laying his wreath.



Mr. H.D. Aplin laying a wreath on behalf of His Highness the Rajah.



Padungan Road

in every walk of life who served this country and died for her.”

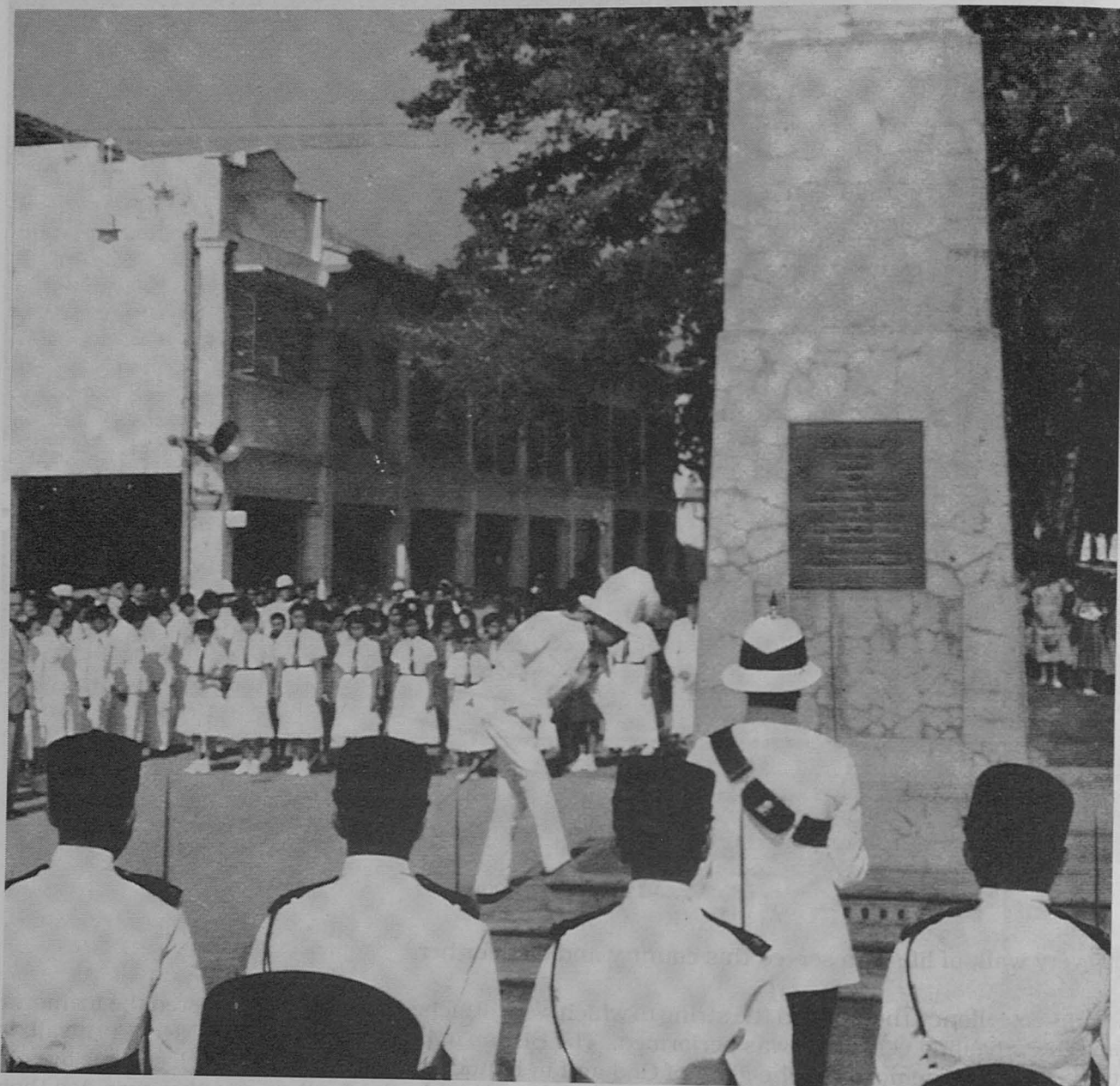
His Excellency then pulled the string to which were attached the flags that covered the memorial and the unveiling ceremony was performed. The Bishop of Borneo, the Rt. Rev. Nigel Cornwall, in dedicating the memorial to the glory of God and in honoured memory of all who lost their lives in Sarawak through the war of 1941 to 1945, offered humble thanks ‘for them that have yielded their lives for the freedom of mankind’. In praying for true fellowship among men of all races so that lasting peace may be established the Bishop asked for love to be given in place of hatred; pardon where there is injury; faith, where there is distrust; hope; where there is sorrow; light, where there is darkness.

Prayers of dedication were also said by the Imam, Tuan Haji Baharuddin.

The two-minute silence was observed after the singing of the hymn ‘Oh God Our Help in Ages Past’, and then followed the Last Post and Reveille. His Excellency the Governor then laid a wreath of Vanda Joachim orchids at the base of the Memorial, and was followed by Mr. H.D. Aplin who laid a wreath on behalf of His Highness the Rajah, and the Chief Secretary, Mr. R.G. Aikman who laid a wreath on behalf of the Government of Sarawak.

His Excellency left after the signing of the Hymn 'God Save The King'. While musical selections were rendered by the Sarawak Constabulary Band, other wreaths were placed at the Memorial. They were from: The Municipal Commissioners, The Staff of the Public Works Department; Messrs. Sarawak Association; Messrs. The Borneo Co., Ltd., and Mrs. Harnack."

The Memorial was designed by Mr. E.C. Dhing, of the Public Works Department whose brother was amongst those executed by the Japanese in company with the late Mr. Le Gros Clark.



His Excellency the Governor laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service, November, 1955.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Wreaths Laid At War Memorial 1955

Bright sunshine heralded the morning of Remembrance Sunday yesterday - a departure from previous years' experience when the drizzling weather in the early morning usually caused some uncertainty as to whether the solemn ceremony was able to be held outdoors or not.

At 9 a.m. yesterday, contingents of the Sarawak constabulary, Boy scouts, Girl Guides, St. Thomas's Cathedral Choir, Heads of Departments and leaders or communities took their places round the War Memorial at Padungan to await the arrival of the Governor and the ceremonial service to commemorate all races who lost their lives as a result of the enemy occupation of Sarawak during the Second World War.

Sir Anthony Abell, the Governor, accompanied by his aide de Camp arrived at the War Memorial at 9.15 a.m. and took the salute as the Sarawak constabulary Band played the National Anthem. Prayers were then conducted by the Very Rev. The Provost of Kuching and the Imam, Tuan Haji Baharuddin.

A hush fell over the large gathering as the two minutes silence was observed, and the Last Post was sounded. This was then followed by Laying of Wreaths, headed by the Governor.

Wreaths were also laid by the Chief Secretary on behalf of the Sarawak Civil Service; the Datu Bandar (Abang Haji Mustapha) on behalf of the Rajah; Mr. M.P. Carson, the Canadian Trade Commissioner from Singapore on behalf of the Canadian Trade Government; Mr. J.C.B. Fisher, Chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council on behalf of the K.M.C., Mr. Ong Kee Hui on behalf of the Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce; Mr. E.J. Skinner on behalf of the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce; and the Datu Abang Openg on behalf of the Malay Community. Burglers of the Sarawak Constabulary then sounded the Rouse and the ceremony concluded with the singing of the National anthem.

The proceedings at the War Memorial were broadcast over Radio Sarawak.

Services were also held in Kuching yesterday morning in St. Thomas's Cathedral, St. Joseph's Church and the Methodist Church. The Sarawak Mission of Seventh Day Adventists held Remembrance Day services a day earlier, on Saturday.

Sarawak Pays Homage To War Dead 1959

KUCHING, Sunday: Sarawak this morning paid homage to those who died in service during the World Wars.

A Remembrance Day Service was held in very fine weather at the Sarawak War Memorial at Padungan here this morning.

It was attended by the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Foster Abell; the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway; the Bishop of Borneo, the Rt. Rev. Nigel Cornwall; the Mufti, Tuan Haji Yusop Shebli; and various Government officials, and citizens of the capital.

Detachments of the Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, the British Red Cross Society (Men's and Women's detachments), the Ex-Servicemen's Association and the Salvation Army were on parade.

The Sarawak Constabulary mounted a Guard of Honour and the Band was in attendance.

The Band played for two minutes before the Governor arrived at 8 a.m.

Prayers were said by the Bishop of Borneo and the Mufti before the singing of the hymn "O God, our help in ages Past". This was followed by a two minute silence and later by the sounding of the Last Post.

Wreaths were laid by the Governor, followed by Mr. Chong Ah Onn representing the Ex-Servicemen's Association; the Chief Secretary, on behalf of the Sarawak Civil Service; Mr. A.R. Snelus, on behalf of the Rajah; the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, on behalf of the Council; Datu Abang Haji Openg, for the Malay community; Mr. Edward Jerah, for the Iban community; the chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Tan Kui Choon, for the Chinese community; and the chairman of commerce, Mr. R.T.R. Fletcher.

The service ended after the sounding of the Reveille and singing of the hymn "God Save the Queen".

The Tour of the Arches

[The above account of the "Tour of the Arches" was written by the Secretary of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Kuching. The following is a free translation:-

The Tour of the Arches by Royalty

On the arrival of Her Royal Highness the duchess of Kent and her son the young Duke of Kent on the 14th October, 1952, tens of thousands of people of all races lined both sides of the streets from Padungan to the Government Clock Tower to extend a warm and loyal welcome to the Royal Visitors who had come to visit Sarawak.

The festive atmosphere of the occasion was evident and the sight was indeed a rare one. The last comparable occasion was that during the celebrations of the Centenary of Brooke Rule of Sarawak. Her Royal Highness's spirit of endurance her travels to the British Colonies in the East and her approachability have earned the admiration and respect of all the people.

The beautiful gifts presented to her should not be valued in money but should be regarded more as a token of the peoples' loyal and sincere welcome.

The 14th day of October, 1952, was the first day of the Royal visit. The people of Kuching, in order to give a cordial welcome, had erected five arches in the Town. There were also decorations and illuminations in the Malay Kampung. The occasion was observed as a great festival day by the whole of Kuching town. After dusk, the town was fittingly illuminated; trees being ablaze with fairy lights in the form of silvery flowers. Traffic in the streets was dense. The crowds were merrily wending their way towards the five majestic and beautiful arches which appeared to be the centre of attraction.

A brief description of the arches as seen by me is given below:-

(1) *The Arch of Padungan (The Pompous and Noble)*

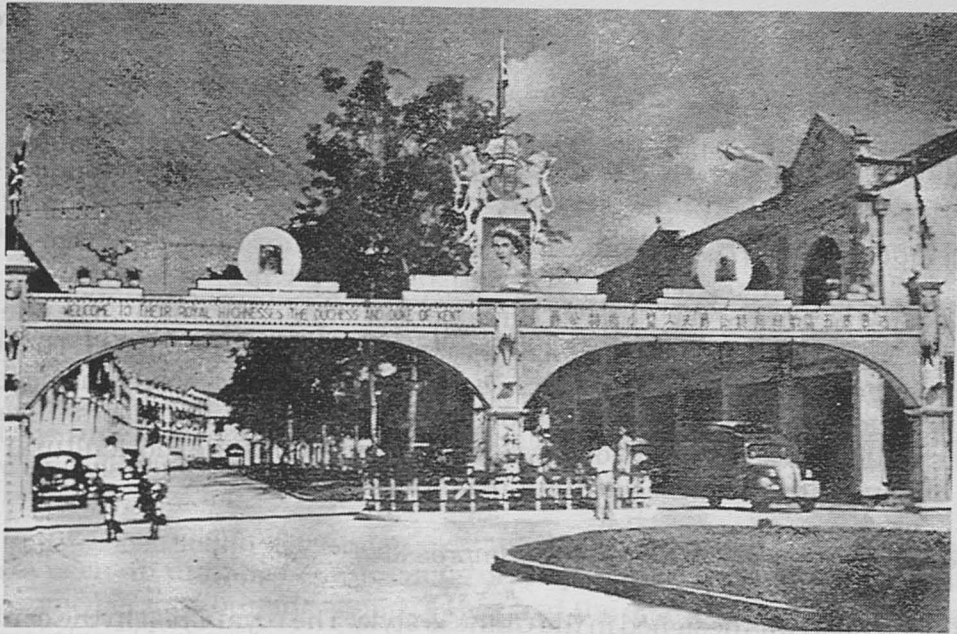
The Padungan arch was Western in motif. A portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, flanked by Union Jacks, was mounted above the centre of the arch. Portraits of both Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent were mounted above the entrances of the arch. The centre pillar that supported the arch was erected on a grass circular plot within which beautiful flowers and orchids were exhibited as if in a small park. Hanging above the arch were two small model aeroplanes with four propellers whirling unceasingly, and at a distance these planes seemed as though real. The arch was not only majestic in appearance but also was well designed and beautiful. The most outstanding features were the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Arms which were skilfully made. The arch was designed by the Chairman of the Decoration Sub-Committee of that section of the town. The careful design and excellent construction work done earned the prize awarded for the best decorated arch in the Town of Kuching.

(2) *The Arch at Market Street (The Majestic and Full of Splendour)*

This arch was supported by four pillars painted with Chinese dragons, and was very attractive. It was the result of skilful blending of Western and Eastern arts, and its beauty was heightened at night by the colourful illuminations. The number of electric lights used for decoration was in the region of five or six hundred.

(3) *The Arch at Gambier Road (The Ancient Fragrance and Ancient Beauty)*

The arch at Gambier Road was in ancient Chinese style; with typical Chinese roof and tiles. There were two pots of beautiful flowers in blossom, adding freshness and beauty to the scene. The pillars of the arch were decorated with distiches reading thus:-



The Padungan arch which was awarded the first prize in Kuching Town.



圖主前就——對報登巴麥

報商對軍——對報超百大

"Her Royal Highness despite hardships of travelling by sea and across mountains on a good will mission for the benefit of the fortunate citizens. Decorating lights and evergreen mark our welcome and respect."

These suitably worded distiches were written in flourishing characters, making the arch most attractive.

(4) *The Arch at Main Bazaar (The Gigantic and Lively)*

This arch, erected in front of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, was a large one and was lively in appearance. It was some 30 feet in height and was supported by 16 pillars. The whole arch was decorated with evergreen and beautiful flowers. It gave one an impression of the beauties of nature, especially the live gold fish in a glass jar and the two basketfuls of flowers. The erection and decoration were under the supervision of a well-known member of the Floricultural Society, hence this arch was the one with the most beautiful real flowers.

(5) *The Rock Road Arch (The Plain, Simple and Impressive)*

The arch at Rock Road was designed in the Chinese style. The royal Crest in the centre was flanked by Union Jacks. Although it was simple in design it was very impressive.

It will thus be seen that every arch had its prominent features. The beauty in some was unique, some were majestic, some portrayed ancient art and some were simple but striking.]

皇族蒞臨話牌樓

英國皇族肯特公爵夫人暨小肯特公爵，十月十四日蒞臨古晉之際，自浮羅岸起，迄政府大鐘樓止，夾道歡迎的民眾，不下數萬名，這種騰歡熱烈的氣象，為砂羅越百年紀念以來所僅見。夫人此次東來，不憚跋涉之煩，不畏舟車之勞，毅然作萬里之旅行，來巡視大英帝國在東南亞之屬地，這種精神，實不能不令人肅然起敬。而且夫人莊嫻和藹，儀態萬方，各民族佇觀皇族豐采後，一種恭順和忠誠的赤忱，不能不油然而生，我以為皇族此來，人民所共獻的最大禮物，並不是物質，而卻是精神。

十四日為皇族蒞臨的第一天，古晉市民，為了表示衷誠的歡迎起見，曾於市區建築五座牌樓，而馬來甘榜，亦另有點點綴，整個古晉市都浴在狂歡中，當夜色朦朧華燈初上時，埠中各處，火樹銀花，照耀得有如白日，街道上車水馬龍，肩摩轂擊，在彼此的交談中，都好像是以牌樓為中心，因此我亦順便向市中所搭的五座牌樓作了一個巡禮。

浮羅岸牌樓——華貴富麗

浮羅岸牌樓，完全是西洋式，它有兩個拱門、中部的上端，嵌有大英國徽和女皇玉照，拱門之上飾有肯特公爵夫人和小肯特公爵肖像，拱門中柱乃建於圓形的草地上，裡面有花有草，宛然是一個小園地，在牌樓上空，有兩架小型灰銀色飛機，每機有四個螺旋槳，在空中旋轉不息，遠望之猶如真機然，這座牌樓不但華貴，而具富麗，特別是女皇玉照和大英國徽，繪製得異常出色，據云這座牌樓，是該區籌備主任郭錫達氏所設計者，其佈置之幽雅，色澤之鮮艷，都已洽到好處，經過評判後，它已獲得首獎。

馬吉街牌樓——莊嚴堂皇

這座牌樓，搭在馬吉街，下層有四個中國蟠龍柱，上部則為層疊式，它的好處是穆肅莊嚴中帶有瑰麗成分，東方藝術中滲著西洋意味，白天觀之，不見如何出色，入夜以後，則火樹銀花，光耀奪目，電燈之數，已達五六百盞，富麗堂皇之態，由此可見。

甘蜜街牌樓——古色古香

新巴殺牌樓，純然是中國式，簷牙高啄，碧瓦顯然，這個古色古香的牌樓，也另有一種風緻，這牌樓飾有兩碎微妙的花，入夜後，花心燦爛發光，使該花艷麗無比，柱上貼一聯，聯曰：「夫人多勞，涉水跋山宣聖德；坡眾有幸，張燈結綵表微忱」。聯句工整，書法勁秀，為該牌樓生色不少。

老巴殺牌樓——雄偉生動

商會門前的牌樓，是雄偉生動，牌高三丈餘，柱凡十六個，全部配以青草鮮花，使人頓覺生氣勃勃，青翠盎然，尤其是那一缸金魚。兩籃鮮花，博得觀眾不少的贊賞，其他的盆栽，為數亦不少，此區為古晉著名花卉種植家許應勤先生所主持，因此鮮花特別多。

大石路牌樓——渾樸幽雅

大石路牌樓的結構，一如中國的牌坊，橫樑上樹立大英國徽，旁柱上飾帝國國旗，它雖然渾樸，倒也相當幽雅，另具一格。

總之各牌樓均有其特點，有的富麗，有的堂皇，有的古雅，有的生動，有的渾樸，爭奇鬥巧，各有千秋。

GOVERNOR OPENS NEW KUCHING SWIMMING POOL

The new Kuching swimming pool was but one indication of how Sarawak had kept up with the times and indeed forged ahead, said Sir Alexander Waddell, Governor of Sarawak, when he declared open the pool on Saturday.

Designed and built in accordance with Olympic standards at the Jubilee Recreation Ground, Padungan Road, the pool was handed over by the Public Works Department to the Kuching Municipal Council the previous day.

Present at the function were Government officials, members of the Council, and representative of community association, sports bodies and youth clubs.

Referring to the term "Olympic standards: Sir Anthony remarked: "Elsewhere in this part of the world there has been an unhappy contretemps over sport and a departure from the Olympic ideal and I daresay some persons outside would, if they had the chance refer to the pool as being of 'new emergent forces' size." (A phrase coined by Indonesia to describe the new international games which it is proposing to hold following its expulsion by the International Olympic Council).

'Compartmentation of sport'

He added: "This political compartmentation of sport is as wholly deplorable as it is unfair to the young who want to compete with the best of the world whatever their race or politics."

Sir Alexander went on to say that the world would be a far better place if instead of politicians trying to control sport, they were inspired by the ideals of sport and the Olympics.

He observed: "However, here in Sarawak, we are not afraid of competition, and while our athletes may not always win they will continue to have a good try."

Continuing Sir Alexander said that in recent years more and better facilities had been introduced. Standards had risen fast, skill had advanced and enthusiasm prevailed.

He added: "In all this constructive and healthy activity one can discern the wisdom of our City Fathers, the devoted service of public spirited persons who give so much of their time to organising and coaching, and if I may modestly so claim, the practical encouragement of Government and its departments.

"There are some earnest seekers after strange truths in this country only use for sports is as a means to very dubious ends. What a joyless travesty of life that is.

"To hard back to the Olympics, the glory that was Greece was founded and flourished on the purest form of politics, on the highest forms of the arts and on the excellence of sport. These are inter-related and produced an incomparable civilization."

Sir Alexander said that the swimming pool was not a resort for the idle or a lido for the languorous, though many would find relaxation and pleasure there.

He added: "It is a place for active healthy recreation where it is possible not only to develop aquatic skills, which are of obvious use in Sarawak, but also to refresh the mind and body amid the increasing stresses and strains of modern life.

"For the young it is, of course, important and I trust that the schools and youth organisations will not leave it to chance, but will take practical steps to ensure that their pupils or members derive full benefit from this amenity.

“I am sure that the sports associations and other organisations, the police, the service, the Jaycees will all rally round to give any help needed to make this a live-centre of healthy instruction and recreation.”

Sir Alexander ended by saying that one should not consider that the pool was for the young only. The middle aged, and indeed the elderly, and all those beyond participation in the more gruelling sports could also find great pleasure there.

Mr. Tan Kui Choon hands over the pool

Welcoming those present, Mr. Tan Kui Choon, chairman of the Kuching Swimming Pool and Sports Fund Committee, said that he had been asked to formally hand over the pool on behalf of all those who had subscribed towards the project to the Kuching Municipal Council.

Thanking the Director of Public works and his staff “for the very fine and up-to-date pool that we see before us”, Mr. Tan said that thanks were also due to the contractors who had done all they could to comply with the high standard set by the Public Works Department in that project.

Describing it as “a dream come true”, Mr. Tan added: “First it existed in the mind of His Excellency who was interested in finding ways and means of improving existing amenities and providing new facilities for outdoor sports which was considered to be essential for the welfare of young people.

“This dream was shared to others, especially the Sarawak Government and the Kuching Municipal Council, who have done so much to make this dream come true.

“This dream was told to others - to parents of children young people and all who live in this town. Today, we have come here to witness the thrilling moment when the dream becomes a reality.”

Mr. Tan finally said that with the facilities now provided it should be possible before long for Sarawak to participate in competitive swimming, and for an organisation to be formed by swimming enthusiasts which could affiliate with the Sarawak Sports and Olympic Committee to compete in international games as part of the national team of Sarawak.

Inviting the Governor to declare open the swimming pool, Mr. Ong Kee Hui, the president of the Kuching Municipal Council, said that the swimming pool was part of a programme of development of sports facilities in the form of playgrounds, sport fields and other recreation facilities which the present Council was anxious to carry out during its tenure of office.

He added: “What you see before you is only part of the full project for the swimming pool. On the other side, there should also be a children’s pool, provision for permanent administrative building, facilities for canteen and restaurant, together with grandstand and parking facilities.”

Mr. Ong went on to say that to the swimming pool project, and a additional sports grounds, the Sarawak government had, from funds available through Colonial Department and Welfare, made an outright grant of \$100,000, plus a matching contribution of a dollar for a dollar amounting to \$131,000.

Cost of construction, \$470,000

The public of Kuching, through the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce and the Kuching Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the Fund Raising Committee, had subscribed a total of \$131,000.

The actual costs of construction of the pool was approximately \$470,000, exclusive of cost of land and design and supervision fees of the pool, which was rendered free by the Public Works Department.

He then thanked on behalf of the KMC and the citizens of Kuching, Government and all those who

had contributed so generously towards the project.

Said Mr. Ong: "The swimming pool will fill a long-felt need for the citizens of this town. We are some 20 miles from the sea with no road access to it, and although we have the Sarawak River and a few creeks and ponds here and there for the more adventurous young people of this town to learn to swim, apart from the small swimming pool of the Sarawak Club, there is really no suitable place where the people of this town can indulge in this very useful and healthy form of recreation.

"Although the Batang Lupar District Council had beaten us to it by opening their pool in Simanggang before we finished this one, this is in fact the first full-sized pool in Sarawak and we are justly proud that we have here in Kuching this really magnificent pool."

Pointing out that the site on which the pool was constructed was a difficult one and called for a good deal of skilful design and construction, Mr. Ong associated himself with what Mr. Tan had said in paying tribute to the Director of Public Works and his staff.

He ended by saying that the Director himself took a keen, personal interest in the project and the result was most gratifying.

Pool Facts and figures.

- * The pool has a diving pit, 59 feet by 42 feet by 12 feet 6 inches deep with the usual three-stage diving boards to Olympic heights.
- * The diving pit is constructed in reinforced concrete bedded on rock, and both this and the main pool are tiled on all surfaces.
- * The depth of the water in the pool is 3 feet 6 inches at the shallow end, and 7 feet at the deep end, and the diving stages are two by one metre spring boards, three metre and five metre fixed diving platforms.
- * A range of dressing rooms and toilet facilities, along with ample sitting and sun-bathing terraces, complete the building complex.
- * The floor of the main pool is of beam and slab construction, supported at the side adjacent to the main road on mass concrete foundations, and on the race course side on steel box piles driven onto the rock below.
- * The water in the pool is fully treated by a purification plant which is installed in adjacent out-buildings. The purification system is novel in that the four main filters work on the upward flow principle in keeping with the latest filtration techniques for swimming pools.
- * Sterilization of the water and the prevention of algae growth will be maintained by chemical processes harmless to swimmers.
- * The filtration plan will filter all of the 570,000 gallons of water in the pool every eight hours, and to do this the water in the pool will be kept circulating by electrically driven pumps.
- * All of the construction works were carried out at a cost of \$472,000 and the contractor for the work was Messrs. Wei Tah Construction (Borneo) Ltd., Kuching.

'NO PARTY POLITICS' PLEDGE GIVEN BY NEW K.M.C. PRESIDENT 'COUNCILLORS WILL DECIDE ISSUES IN BEST INTERESTS OF CONSTITUENTS'

AN ASSURANCE that party politics would not play a part in the affairs of the newly-elected Kuching Municipal Council was given by Mr. Ong Kee Hui, when he was voted in President at the Council's first meeting on Tuesday.

In his address, Mr. Ong, who is also Chairman of the Sarawak United People's Party, reiterated his Party's stand that "in the field of local government there is little scope for party politics."

"I would like to assure all Councillors" he declared, "that in matters of local interest, SUPP members in this Council will exercise their judgement in the best interests of their constituents.

"The Party's main concern is in matters of national interests and the achievement of the Party aims as laid down in our Constitution, one of the most important of which is to foster racial harmony and Party members will therefore work on non-communal and non-racial lines and respect the rights of minorities."

Mr. Ong was elected President by 16 votes to 10 (one abstention) in a straight fight with Haji Su'ut Tahir. Mr. Tan, however, declined to stand for election.

The past-President, Mr. William Tan, was first proposed President by Haji Su'ut Tahir. Mr. Tan, however, declined to stand for election.

Mr. Ong was then proposed by Mr. Wee Chong Hong and seconded by Mr. Song Thian Cheok, and Haji Su'ut Tahir was proposed by Mr. Fang Kuan Lin and seconded by Inche Abong bin Taif.

Yong elected Vice President

In the election of Vice-President, Mr. Stephen Yong proposed Haji Satem bin Haji Sulong, who declined the nomination.

Haji Rambli bin Haji Leman, then proposed Mr. Yong. This was seconded by Mr. Lee Swee Hock and as there were no other nomination, Mr. Yong was declared Vice-President.

In his address to the Council, Mr. Ong said he was "deeply conscious of the great responsibility" placed on him by his election to President but he was "cheered by the knowledge: that the members of the present Council comprised not only many tired, old Councillors of experience but many new ones of high calibre and with experience in other fields of social service.

"With your support and co-operation," he told the Councillors, "I have great hopes that we will be able to continue to provide the citizens of Kuching with an efficient and good administration and tackle successfully some of the many problems that confront us in our three years of office.

"I also hope that some one from among you will take his turn at the helm of this Council next year and allow myself an opportunity to devote more time in the service of the people of Sarawak in another sphere."

Continued Mr. Ong, "At the last meeting of the old Council, reference was made by one Councillor that unfortunately party politics has come into Sarawak.

"Time changes and it is inevitable that though the moon is many miles away the shooting of a rocket to that planet must have some little impact on even a remote and small corner of world like Sarawak. In the same way political developments in South East Asia today must effect us here to

a greater or lesser extent and much as we like to preserve our old way of life we must adapt ourselves to changing circumstances if we wish to preserve what we hold dear in this country.

‘Work together’ plea

“On my assuming office today I don’t want to abuse my privilege and start preaching to fellow Councillors or try and persuade that Independent Councillors to adopt the infant political prodigy called the SUPP.

“I think I ought, however, to repeat what has been publicly stated by the SUPP that in the field of local government there is little scope for party politics and I would like to assure all Councillors that in matters of local interest the SUPP members in this Council will exercise their judgement in the best interests of their constituents.”

Mr. Ong then appealed to all Councillors to work together for the betterment of the citizens of Kuching in particular and for the good of the people of Sarawak as a whole.

He also paid tribute to his predecessor, Mr. William Tan, for his service to the Council. Mr. Tan, he said, had set a high standard for the office of President, which it would be difficult for this successors to achieve.



To the booming sounds of the giant drum of the Kwong Hui Siu Lion Party the new spacious building of Messrs. Hong Kwong Company was informally opened on Sunday last at 4 p.m. 1954.

Even before the hundreds of guests from all sections of the commercial, educational and social circles arrived at the new premises, which is located on an empty space just off the Padungan Road, behind the new block of shophouses, the throbbing sounds of the Lion Party's drum and cymbals and gong could be heard.

It was a most typical and colourful opening ceremony which was carried out with friendliness and courtesy by the hosts of the biscuit firm. While the silken lion danced and carpered throughout the new, lengthy building the guests were welcomed and served all kinds of refreshment.

Some guests took the opportunity to inspect the three floors of the building. On the top of the parapet one could see the impressive skyline of new buildings mushrooming on every side of the biscuit factory. One could be not but be moved by seeing the great variety of godowns, shophouses and factories and works of all shapes and sizes shooting up from the ground which in fact was previously a marshy land with some ramshackle buildings. The satellite town of Padungan is growing and growing - and the development tempo and scale are going on faster and bigger.

In the meantime before 5 p.m. all of the guests arrived, and the Lion stopped for a well-earned rest from the wonderful strenuous dances it had performed.



Then finally came the grand final show at 5.15 p.m, when the dancing Lion was to get its just reward - a string of pink coloured \$10 notes. The notes of about \$100 were tied or gummed to each other and at the tail was a vegetable with two green limes and a red packet.

The lion party, of which the man manipulating the lion-head was the chief actor, had to display their skill to get this reward. After dancing and waving about the party at first climbed some tables set in the manner of a humped bridge and then the grand final.

To reach the string of \$10 notes the party formed a sort of pyramid as done by physculturists. The base consisted of 4 persons with two or three on top of their shoulders; and lastly at the apex was the man with the Lion head. In taking a reward the Lion was assisted by a large pole. Somehow or other the Lion head climbed the pole and ate vegetable and then pulled in the notes. All these motions were carried out to the accompaniment of the drum and symbols. It was an admirable act; and was watched by an appreciative crowd which packed every nook and corner of the building and surrounding areas and houses.





The Heng Ann Association (formally the resident of the late Song Kheng Hai). According to popular belief, as there are good and bad people in this world, so there are good and bad spirits in the other world. The bad one are notoriously spiteful and vindictive and are quite likely to strike poor, unsuspecting morals out of the blue with sickness calamity and death.

The Taoist priest and the Assistance perform some site by prayers and offering of "Jose money, incense, candle fruits and vegetables.

Finally the priest waved the pennant he held while the devotees mostly women and children walked through the bridge(wooden structure and cloth as material) will be avoided from all sorts of mishap.

It is said that the Taoist priest generally more skilled in black magic will use his occult knowledge to fight the spirit and put them to flight. His approach may be described as the militant one.

The article that displayed on top of a table oversight the temple would strike your eyes and they are normally consist of a triangular shape pennant, with the magic symbol of the right Triangular shape pennant, with the magic vicious looking "Spite ball" (Teng Kiew) best described as metal witch ball studded with sharp spikes. A studded with sharp spikes. A double edges cutting sword (Kiam) a horse hair or rope known as demon whip's. It you see any or all of these around, you can be sure the temple is the centre of a spirit medium cult.

The demon whip as held by the assistant see top picture on the other page with a handle carved in the shape of a dragon is thought to have the inherit power of putting to flight any mischievous demons that may be lurking in the vicinity.



The demon whip as shown holding by the assistants of the medium.



On the table top was the "spite ball", the sword, the pennants.



This picture show the frontiers of the Song Kheng Hai's residence.



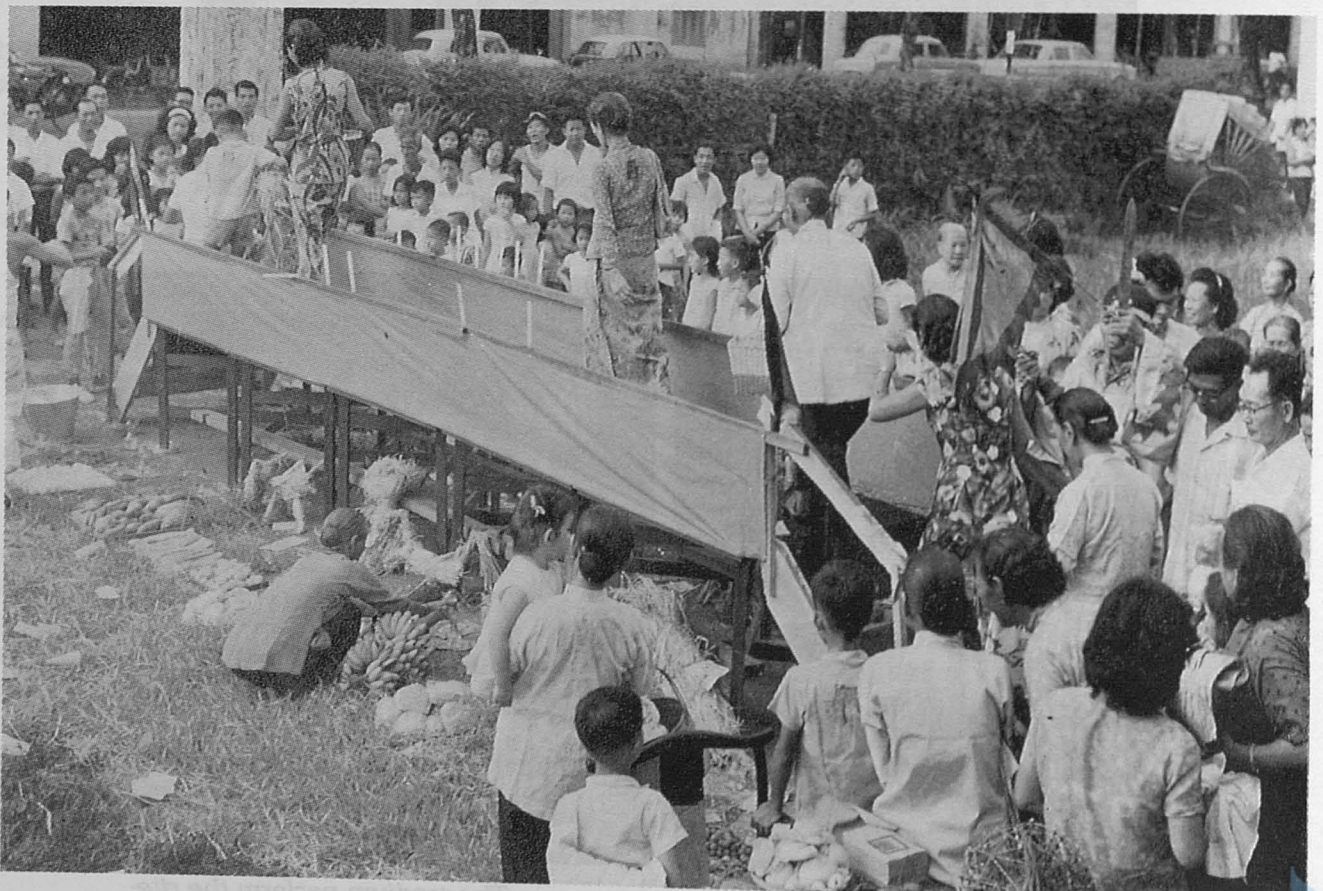
The main entrance of the old house of the Song Kheng Hai.



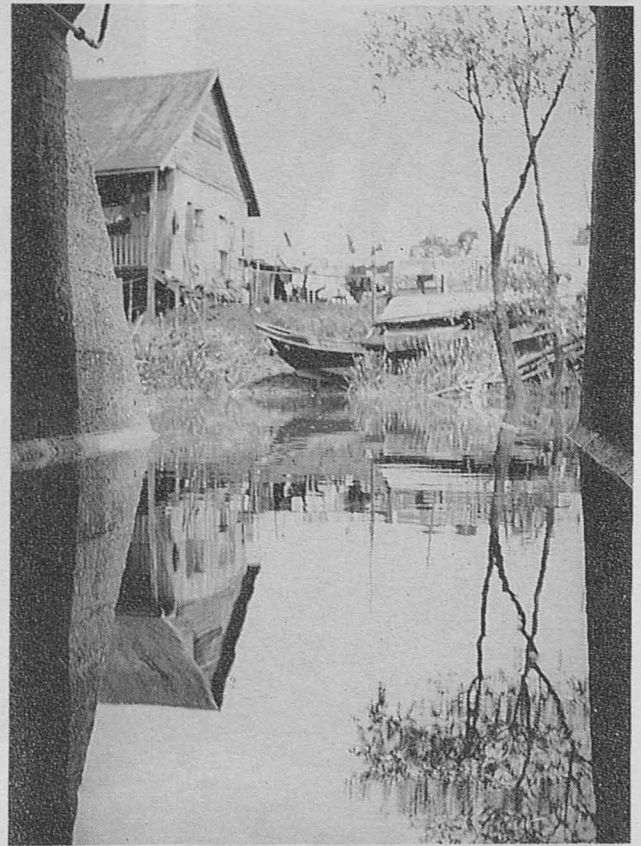
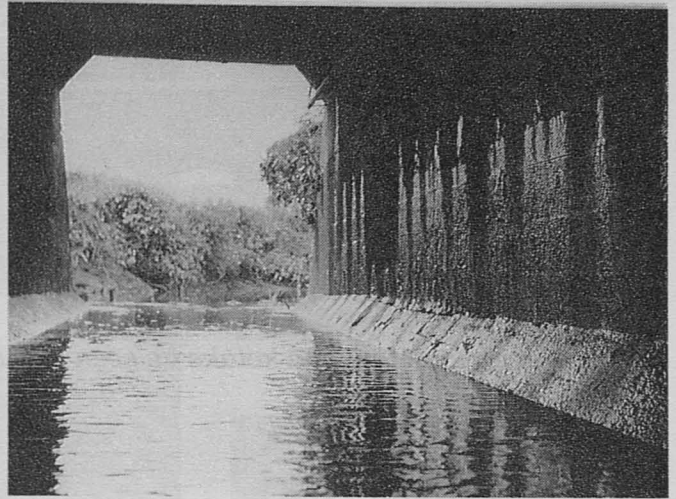
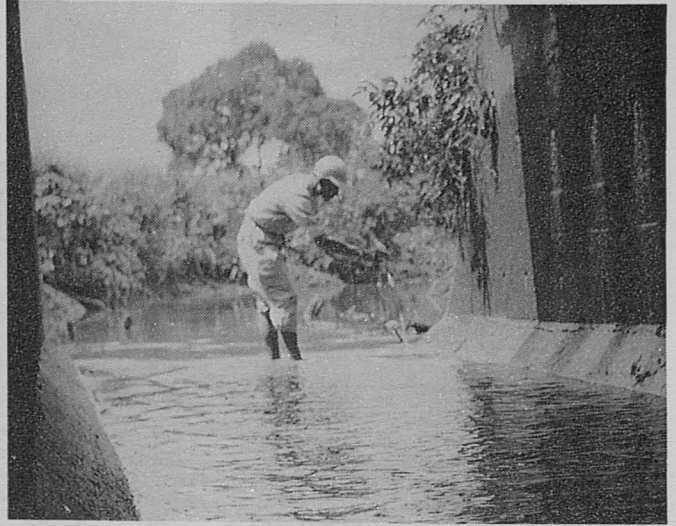
The medium perform the rite.



The performance of the Toast priest is in progress, his right hand holding a sword and bell on his hand.



One could see beneath the bridge the offering of various type of food and vegetables.



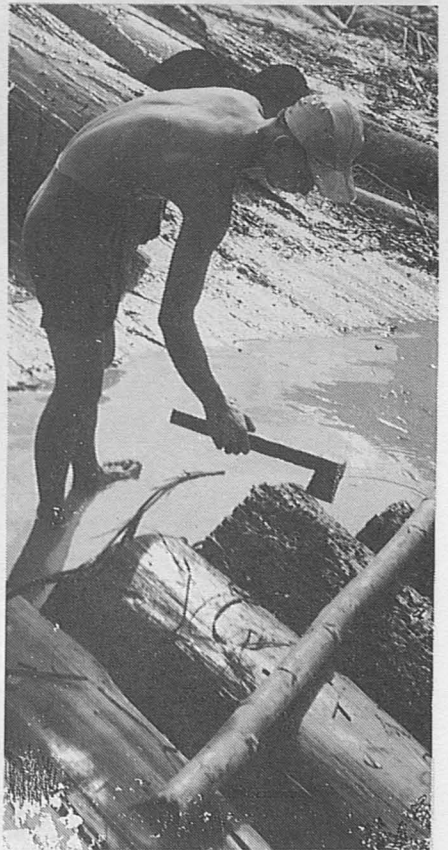
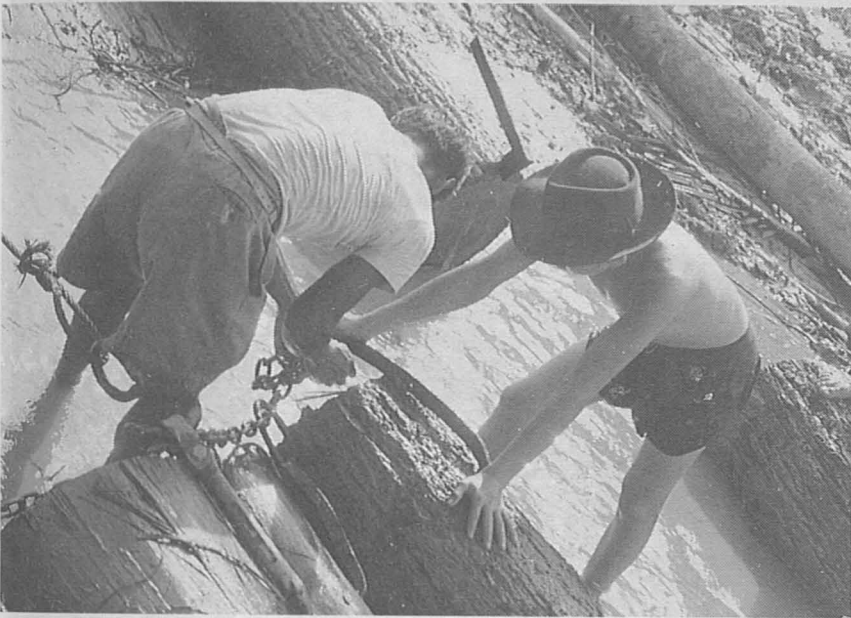
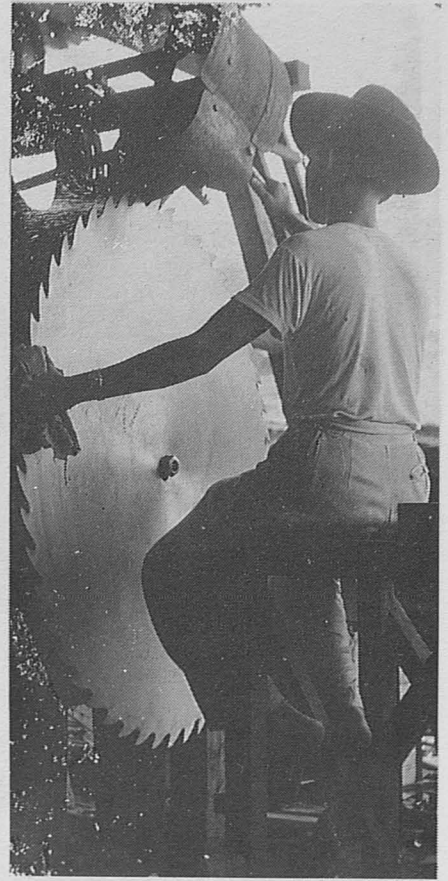
Various scene the of the large covered drain of the Sungai Padungan before it was paved into a canal at Padungan Road.



The typical Henghua kotaks as seen in the stream at Petanak Road during the 50's.



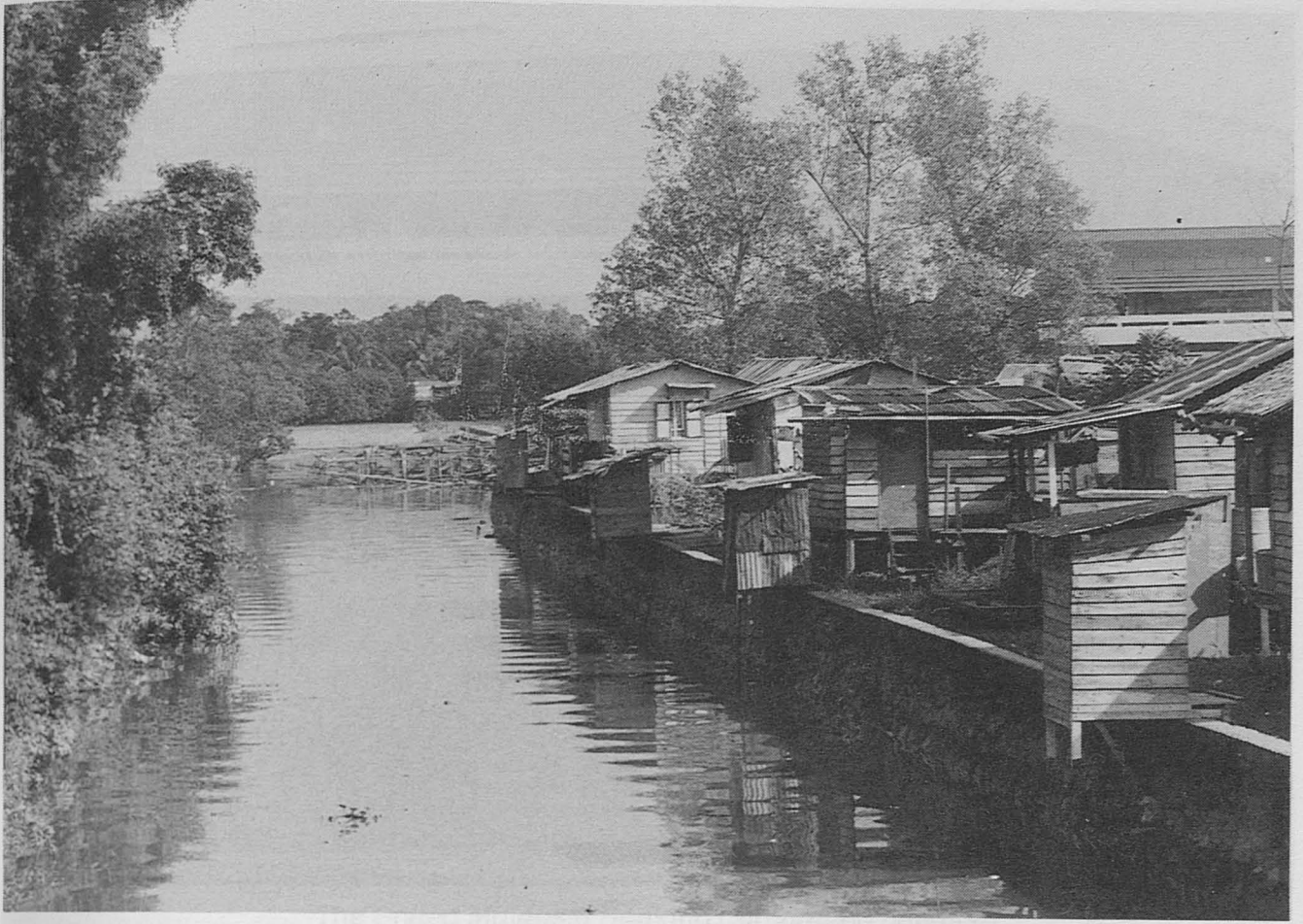
Another scene of an old wooden building along the Petanak Stream.



Chin Hock Seng Sawmill once situated at the bank of Sungei Padungan in the 50's.



The bank of the Petanak River as from its river mouth up to the road side of Padungan Road were paved into a canal and a changed in the physical environment appeared inevitable.



The Padungan River nicely paved like a channel.



The Petanak Central Market, located on an area of 1.74 hectare at Jalan Petanak was completed in 1988. It is a 2 storey building with 385 stalls under its roof. The project was a joint venture with the State Government.



The United Malaysia Banking Corporation building.



It is interesting to note that a great portion of Sungei Padungan had been turned into a large covered drain. The Teck Guan & Co. (Sarawak) Ltd. across the road as seen in 1968 has been fully renovated and occupied by the U.M.B.C.



A row of new shophouses fully occupied the former Roman Catholic Mission's swampy land and building therein.



A Padungan River scene as seen during high tide at the very bank of the Padungan Road.



ABELL ROAD

An important road in the industrial area behind the Padungan Bazaar was named "Abell road" in honour of the former Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell K.C.M.G.



PADUNGAN ROAD

Padungan Road is named after the Malay village of Kampong Padungan which, many years ago, was the largest Malay village in Kuching. When a road was made through it and shophouses built on either side, the villagers moved away; now there is no longer a Malay village there but that part of the town and the road which passes through it retains the name Padungan.



The Song Kheng Hai Recreation Ground.

This picture bringing into the view of the building along Song Thian Cheok Road, the Song Kheng Hai Recreation Ground and all the surrounding building.

The Song Kheng Hai Recreation Ground was put back into use for football in May, being allocated to the Boy's Club, Youth Club, Fire Brigade and Sarawak Constabulary on four evenings a week. On other days it was available for important games in 1957.

Both the Jubilee Recreation Ground and the Song Kheng Hai football pitch were used for League and Knock-out competitions organised by the Kuching Football Association in 1959.



The Song Thian Cheok Road

HOUSING: 1961

Several housing estates had been planned or being developed during the year; one of the more important ones is that located in Padungan Central, known as Padungan Garden. This project is in that nature of mixed development with a huge 4-storey block consisting of arcade shops, offices, godowns and flats with some terrace houses located immediately at the back of this modern structure.

Next to shophouse development, terrace housing seems to be second in popularity and in good demand. Consequently, land located within easy distance from a bazaar becomes more and more expensive. Care has been taken by the Council in the planning of area for high density dwelling, the unit density being laid down as twelve per acre.

The largest single investment is expected to be that of Messrs. Tham Shing Kee, which envisages a five-storey super-arcade cum flats at the back of Odeon Theatre, Padungan Road. The streamlined building will cost about \$1 million. Plan of this super-arcade has been finalised and construction work will begin very soon.

The reinforced concrete structure will be 360 feet long and 120 feet in width with showrooms and stores on the ground floor for 32 shophouses which will be accommodated on the first floor. There will be 12 offices on the second floor, and the third and top floor will accommodate 24 units of two or three room flats. This will be the first of its kind in Kuching.

The firm has also started a housing estate called Padungan Garden at the adjoining area of the proposed super-arcade. These are blocks of 23 unit terrace houses. Work on these terrace houses are in full swing at the moment.

This housing project costs about half a million dollars.



William Tan road as seen today.

In order to do away with a dangerous bend during 1969, William Tan Road was straighten for a new stretch of road of approximately 300 feet at its entrance from Padungan Road on the course of construction a bus lay by was constructed at Padungan Road for the purpose of resisting the existing bus stop away from the junction of Sekama Road. The new stretch of William Tan Road was constructed of 9" block stone pitching and 3" thick surfacing with two coats of hot bitumen sealing.

Mr. William Tan. C.B.E. (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), was the first President of the elected Kuching Municipal Council when it was instituted in 1956. For the able manner in which he conducted its affairs through its early years he was awarded the C.B.E. by the British Government. He received this decoration from the hands of the Queen at Buckingham Palace, London.

He was one of the founders of the Sarawak Chinese Association, 1962.

In 1964 he was appointed a senator in the new Malaysian Federal Government.

This road is called after Mr. William Tan in recognition of services rendered by him to the Kuching Municipal Council.



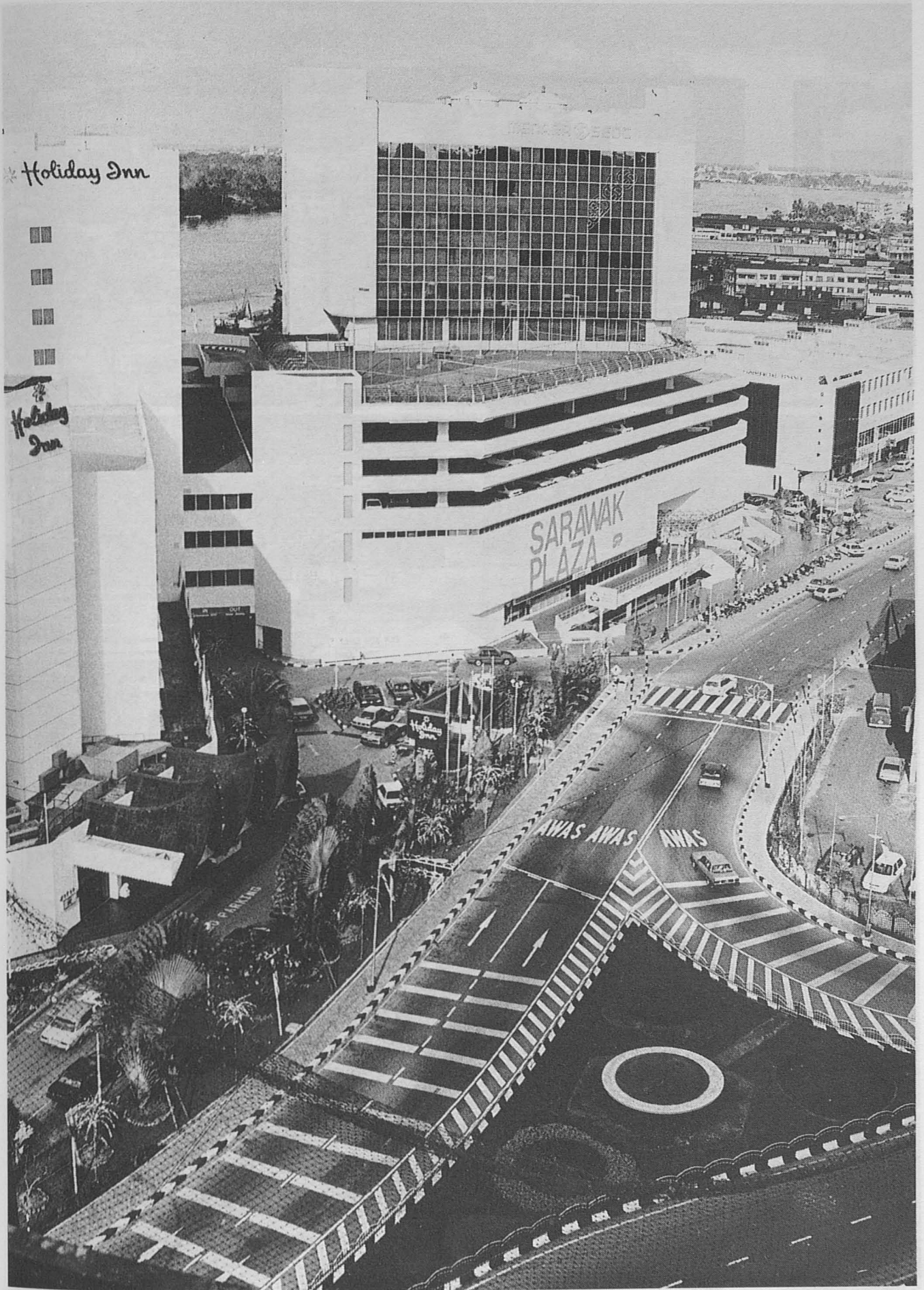
The buildings along Song Thian Cheok Road, shophouses along Ban Hock road and residential area could be seen in the photograph.



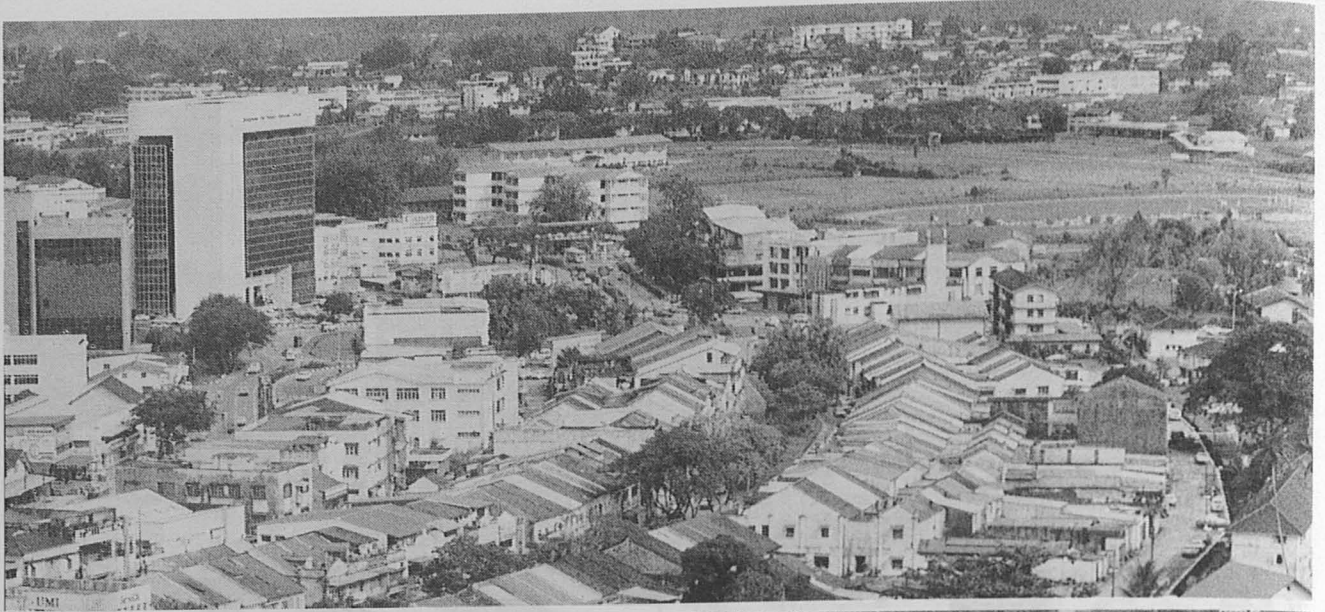
A bird eye view of Padungan area.

CHAN CHIN ANN ROAD

The whole length of Chan Chin Ann road of 386'0" was reconstructed because it was formerly only a substandard carriageway. The new construction work was started on 4th September the previous year with earth filling and the normal formation for a 24'0" carriageway and the work was resumed from 5th January, 1971 onwards during favourable weather with the foundation of 9" block stone pitching. It was finally surfaces as part of a road gyratory system with Jalan Padungan and completed on 8th November, 1971 at a total amount of \$34,459.



A view of the magnificent Sarawak Plaza building and the Menara S.E.D.C along Jalan Tun Abdul Rahman.

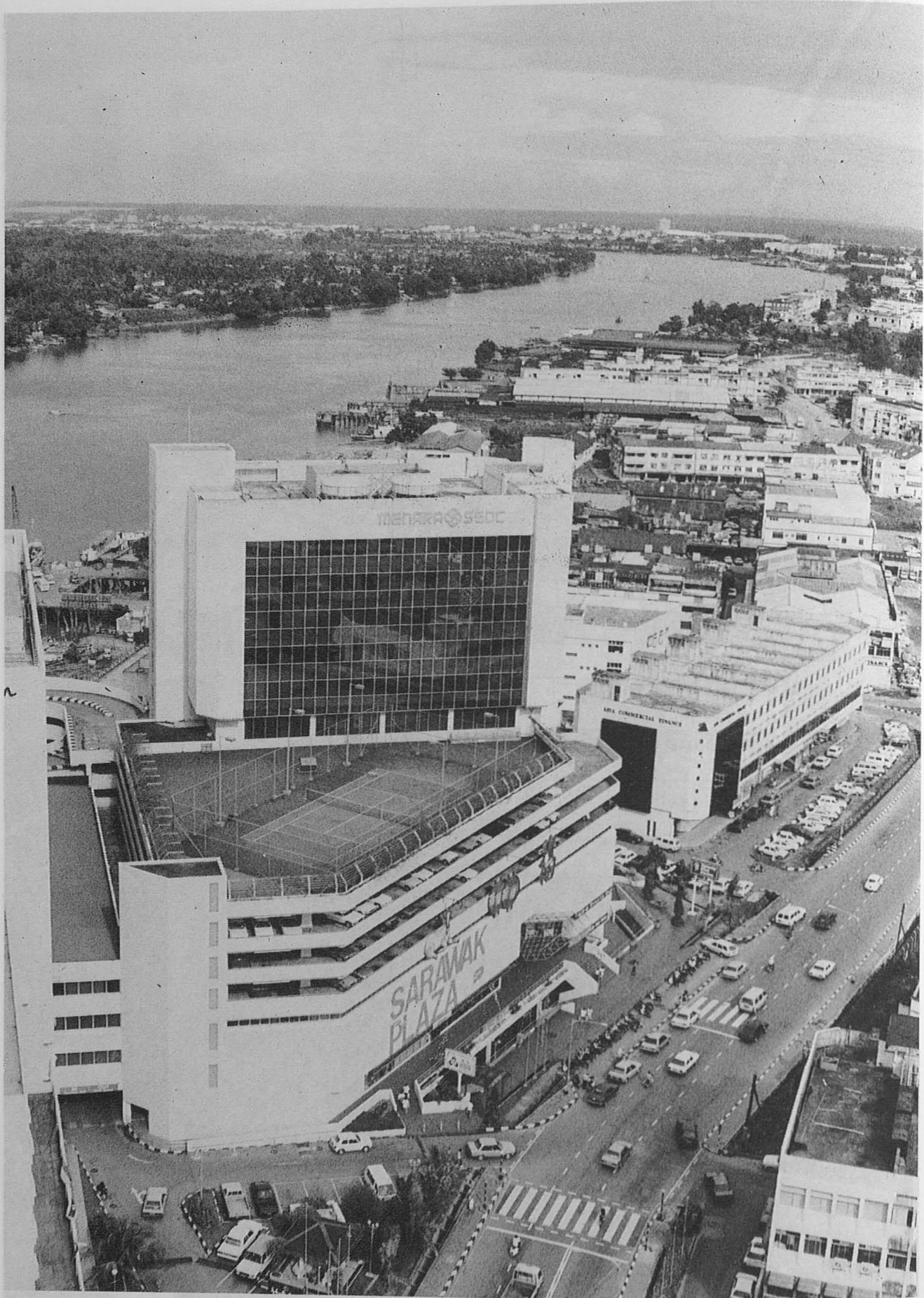


Top: The shop building at end of the Padungan road, the Kuching Fire Station, the Kuching Chung Hwa School No. 3, the Jubilee Recreation Ground, the venue for sport & football, Kuching Turf Club as a distance view.

Below: Showing the Abell Road behind the Padungan Road in honour of the former 3rd Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell K.M.C.G. The distance Pending Industry area could also be seen.



Bird's eye view of Padungan area.



A bird eye view of the Sarawak river, the magnificent Sarawak Plaza building and the Menara S.E.D.C. along Jalan Tun Abdul Rahman.



Bird's eye view of a section of Padungan building along Sarawak River.



Two picture showing the round about of Padungan Road, Petanak Road and Central Road.



This Padungan Road lead to Pending Road.

Jubilee Recreation Ground Fund.

The following is published for general information in accordance with section 8(3) of the Jubilee Recreation Ground Fund Ordinance, 1939.

Audit Report on the Accounts of the Jubilee Recreation Ground Fund for the three years ended the 31st December, 1952.

1. No satisfactory vouchers were produced to support a large number of payments of 1950 and 1951. Most of these unvouched payments appear to have related to regular recurrent expenditure such as staff wages, and have been accepted unvouched. However a nett amount of \$349.74 appearing in the Income and Expenditure Account as "Cheques Unaccounted for in 1950" represents the remainder of the unvouched items which it has not been possible to identify.
2. "Cash in hand 31.12.49-\$62.92" written off in the Income and Expenditure Account represents the balance of cash in hand as shown by the Cash Book at the end of 1949. No explanation has been received of how this cash was disposed of, but it cannot apparently now be traced.
3. "Depreciation Written Off - \$183.49" in the Income and Expenditure Account is the same amount as for the single year 1949. The present accounts cover a period of three years, however, and it appears that the amount now written off should have been considerably larger.
4. The Buildings are shown in the Balance Sheet at a figure of \$31,979.88, which represents the cost of construction (\$25,679.88 in 1941, \$1,500.00 in 1946 and \$4,800.00 in 1947). No amounts have been written off for depreciation to date.
5. No subsidiary records of the renting or leasing of the Fund's properties have been seen, and it was not possible to verify that all rentals due have been brought to account.

JUBILEE RECREATION GROUND FUND. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT. FOR THE 3 YEARS 1950, 1951 AND 1952.

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
<i>Clerk's Salary</i>	...		\$ 495.00	<i>Property Revenue Account</i>			
<i>Upkeep of Ground</i>				Rent collected - 1950	...	\$ 410.00	
Wages Caretaker	...	\$1,296.00		Rents collected - 1951	...	375.00	
Extra labour cleaning under-growth	...	170.00	1,466.00	Damage to building - recovered from Supply Office	...	895.00	
<i>Maintenance of Building</i>				Rents collected - 1952	4,400.00		
P.W.D. bills - Labour and Materials	...		148.06	<i>Less paid in advance by Happy World (unexpired portion) 1.1.53 to 29.9.53 = 8 2/3 months at \$4,000.00 p.a</i>	2,89.00	1,510.00	3,190.00
<i>Miscellaneous Expenditure</i>				<i>Donation received</i>	...		130.14
Assessment for year 1950 and 1951			288.00	<i>Expenditure over Income transferred to Balance Sheet</i>	...		359.56
Fire insurance premia	\$450.50						
Less: Recovered from Supply Office	137.72	312.78					
Sundries	...	97.71	968.49				
<i>Lighting and Water Bills</i>							
1 month October 1950	...	6.65					
December 1950 to November 1952	...	268.45	275.10				
<i>Depreciation Written Off: - (same as in 1949)</i>							
Furniture	...	12.12					
Office Appliances	...	20.48					
Electric lighting Installation	...	139.07					
Water	...	12.72	184.39				
<i>Cheques drawn unaccounted for - 1950*</i>	...	1,049.99					
<i>Less: Honorarium to A. P. Merrells in Balance Sheet 1949 already received by him</i>	\$40.00						
<i>Less: Caretaker wages, Clerks Salary and F/Insurance</i>	660.25	700.25	349.74				
Cash-in-hand on 31.12.1949. Unaccounted for			62.92				
			<u>\$3,697.70</u>				

*Can account for \$660.25 but no vouchers to support.

Kuching Municipal Council Takes Over

Recreational Facilities Will Be Developed
Public Warned Not To Expect Miracle

Moveable property including equipment and funds in the bank, of the Jubilee Recreation Ground Committee, were last Saturday morning formally handed over to the Kuching Municipal Council by the Resident, First Division, Mr. A.F.R. Griffin, Chairman of the Committee, in a simple ceremony.

This took place in the Resident's Office, and there to take over from Mr. Griffin was the Chairman of the Sarawak Turf Club, Mr. Ong Kee Hui, the Municipal Secretary, Mr. A.R. Meikle, and a member of the Jubilee Fund Committee, Mr. J.A.G. Benson.

Funds of the Committee in the bank amounted to \$9,7000 and this was handed over to Mr. Tan in the form of a cheque.

The Jubilee Ground Fund was instituted before the war to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V, and heading the public contributions to this Fund was the Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooks.

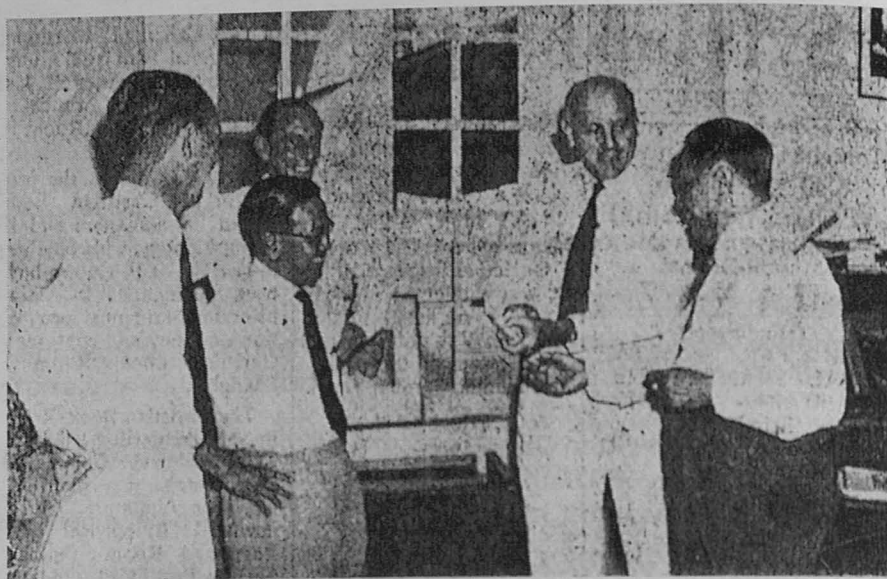
AIM AND OBJECTS

The aim of the Fund was to build a Hall that would eventually become an International Club with provisions for recreational facilities.

The land within the Race Course was donated to the Fund for this purpose by the estates of the late Mr. Ong Ewe Hai.

The first Committee was constituted with Mr. D F. Dick, a former Resident, as Chairman, and members comprising Mr. Khan Ah Chong, Mr. Tan Cheng Pun, Abang Daim bin Abang Haji Rahim all deceased, Abang Suhai bin Abang Adris, Mr. H G. Gray and Dr. E.M. Marjoribanks.

Construction of the Hall was interrupted by the enemy occupation. Then, after the war this Fund took over the Brooke Centenary fund and was then able to construct recreational facilities as they stand now.



Mr. Griffin is handing over to Mr. Tan the cheque for \$9,700 while (from left) Mr. Meikle, Mr. Ong Kee Hui and Mr. J.A.G. Benson look on.



Before the hand-over ceremony the Resident, Mr. Griffin (right) welcomes the President of the Council, Mr. William Tan.

During the Committee's tenure of office, generous assistance was rendered by the Committee of the Sarawak Turf Club and by Mr. William Tan.

Legislation was passed last year by Council Negri vesting in the Kuching Municipal Council the administration of the property.

At the handing-over ceremony, the President of the Kuching Municipal Council said that the funds handed over to the Council would be put into improvements to the ground.

Mr. William Tan added that as a condition of the hand-over, should the Council be able to obtain any profit by disposal of any portion of the land, that money would be devoted to the improvement of recreational facilities in Kuching (not necessarily the area confined to the Jubilee Recreation Ground).

TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

Mr. Tan said he was grateful of the trust and confidence in Council expressed by the hand-over, and assured that Council would do its best to provide recreational facilities to the people of Kuching. He added that much as Council would have liked to develop the Jubilee Recreation Ground into a condition worthy of the next Interterritorial athletic meeting, it was unfortunately too late to do so now.

The Municipal Secretary, Mr. A.R. Meikle, in an interview with the Tribune later in the day, warned the public that no miracle should be expected.

Where bookings of and gate collections at the ground would remain very much the same, Mr. Meikle said, improvements in the future would have to be carefully planned so as to obtain the best and most urgently required as far as available funds permitted.



Replacing belian shingle roof at Jubilee Hall in 1973

The belian shingle roofing of the hall had never been replaced since the building was erected. Due to heavy leakage at several areas and with certain numbers of the roof found to be defective, the main roof of the hall was replaced with new belian shingles and defective roof members replaced at a total cost of \$19,800.

The Jubilee Hall was renovated with a total cost of \$900,000 in 1983 and known as the Dewan Masyarakat since then.

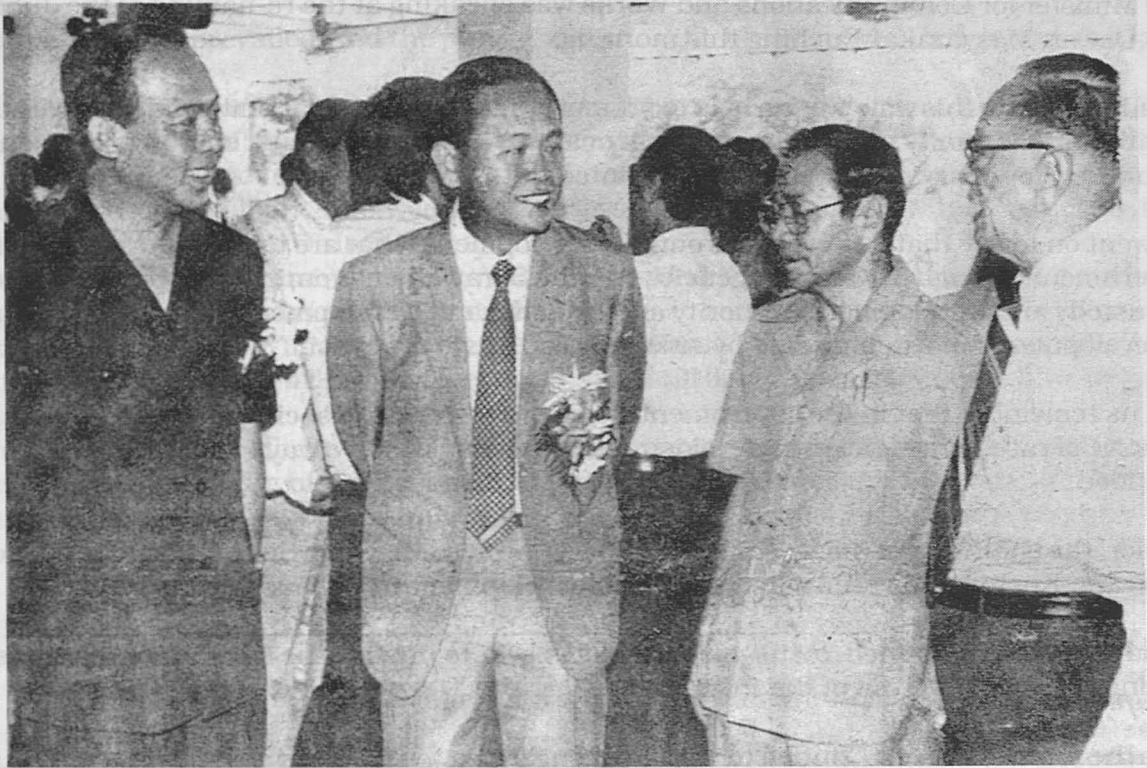
SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL

The Council held two civic receptions at the Jubilee Hall during the year 1960; one in August was in honour of the Prime Minister of Singapore.

The Jubilee Hall was the scene of many public gatherings during the year. The premises which was once regarded as a white elephant have no doubt become a useful place for public functions. In September a Fun Fair was held in the Jubilee Recreation Ground in aid of the Kuching Swimming Pool and Sports Field Fund. The fund was opened for public subscriptions and many generous donations were received. The Kuching Swimming Pool together with a sport field is to be constructed in the Jubilee Ground and expected to be completed in 1963. These amenities would certainly fulfill a long-felt need of Kuching.

The Jubilee Recreation Ground continued to be used by the Sarawak Amateur Athletic Association, the Constabulary, and the various secondary schools for their annual Athletic meets. Both this ground and the Song Kheng Hai football pitch were used for league and knock-out competitions organised by the Kuching Football Association. There were also final football matches organised on an inter-station and Inter-territorial basis played at the Jubilee Recreation Ground. These matches were sponsored by the Sarawak Football Association and they attracted great crowds. Other sports such as basketball and badminton remained popular. The standard of basketball game in Sarawak is exceedingly high as was evidenced in a recent tour of Malaya and Singapore by a team from Sarawak. Hockey is gaining popularity, but cricket remains the game of the few and is admittedly a sport which the locals cannot understand or appreciate.

Jubilee Hall is now Dewan Masyarakat Kuching



Seen from left, Mr. Song Swee Guan sharing a light moment with Datuk Wong and two former KMC Presidents, Tan Sri Datuk Ong Kee Hui and Tan Sri Datuk William Tan.

Dr. Wong on the uses of a dewan masyarakat

Kuching, Sat. - Datuk Dr. Wong Soon Kai stressed today that a Dewan Masyarakat should have a wider perspective of uses besides catering for private wedding or birthday parties.

More functions either in the form of muhibbah gathering, concert or recreational activities should be organised so that our people of multiracial composition could get together to know each other and to exchange goodwill and fellowship, he said.

The Minister for Communications and Works was speaking at the re-naming of the Jubilee Hall here to Dewan Masyarakat Kuching this morning.

He added that in this way “we can help to promote racial and national unity and political stability.” Only with national unity and political stability can we then channel our energy and resources for economic development and prosperity, he pointed out.

He went on to say that it is evident from the developments that are taking place in Kuching that the government through its various agencies such as Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, Land Custody and Development Authority and Housing and Development Commission are accelerating developments in Kuching side by side with the private sector.

“Let us remember that in the government’s effort to restructure society and to eradicate poverty irrespective of race, more and more development is the only positive way to achieve the aim,” Datuk Wong added.

Earlier, the chairman of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. Song Swee Guan said that over the recent years, Kuching has seen rapid strides in development in various sectors.

He added that the Council, on its part, will do its best to provide the relevant municipal services in keeping with the progress of the town.

“It is the intention of the Council to turn Kuching into a town that is attractively colourful, fresh and clean.

In administrating the needs of the residents of a town like Kuching, there are occasions when complaints will be levelled against the Council for failing to provide various types of public services satisfactorily,” he pointed out.

Me Song said it would be unfair for him to deny that some of the complaints were groundless, but clarifications were also necessary to prevent misunderstanding by members of the public in respect of the services provided by the Council.

Mr. Song explained that the Council preferred not to engage in public press comments but it would do so when it considered it to be in the interest of the public.

He also said that two government projects, the Petanak commercial centre and the commercial complex on Lot 181 at Jalan Padungan will be the town’s future prominent landmarks.

The Jubilee Hall was built during the colonial days and has been an important landmark of the State Capital for years.

It was renovated at a cost of \$900,000.

The Indoor Rally Sponsored By The Sarawak United Front At The Jubilee Hall, 1962.

The Tengku then left for the Jubilee Hall to attend the indoor rally sponsored by the Sarawak United Front. Well over 1,000 people were present to welcome and hear him. Present also were the Federation Minister of Finance, Mr. Tan Siew Sin, members of the Malayan Alliance delegation and Tun Lim Yew Hock.

Addresses of welcome were first made by leaders of the five political parties forming the SUF and first to speak was Me. Stephen Kalong Ningkan, secretary-general of the Sarawak National Alliance.

Touching on Malaysia, Mr. Ningkan recalled that there had been "several anxious moment" during the past 18 month about the project - "at one stage it was only a matter of touch and go," he said.

However wisdom prevailed and the project, despite difficulties, moved undeterred at supersonic speed.

Mr. Ningkan then said that the overwhelming majority of the people of Sarawak favoured Malaysia and, like the people of Malaya, were anxious to see it materialise, if possible, before the target date.

Mr. Ningkan then spoke of two important political development which had taken place recently - the formation of an alliance between the Sarawak National Party and the Party Pesaka anak Sarawak, and the Sarawak United Front.

He referred to the subversive elements "lurking around the corner" but expressed confidence in the way the Government was dealing with them.

Next to speak was Me. William Tan, president of the Sarawak Chinese Association, who welcomed the Tengku's mission of "clearing whatever doubts are still lingering in the minds of the people about Malaysia."

He went on to say that the five nationalist parties forming the Sarawak United Front represented the overwhelming majority of the people in Sarawak and that since the SUF was pro-Malaysia the vast majority of the people wanted Malaysia. Furthermore Council Negri had been given concrete evidence of that desire.

Assurances welcomed

Mr. Tan then referred to the anti-Malaysia group in Sarawak who demanded independence before considering Malaysia.

He spoke of the ideological struggle between democracy and communism if it stood along. He added: "The shadow of the high cost and bitter fruit of Malayan terrorism is still lingering in the minds of many."

Mr. Tan went on to welcome the assurance given by the Malayan Prime Minister that Malaysia would result in improved livelihood for the farmers.

He also welcomed the assurance that all the territories entering Malaysia would do so as equal partners enjoying equal rights, as well as the news that 40 seats would be allocated to Sarawak and North Borneo in the Malaysian Parliament.

"With such a spirit of give and take," he said, "we are confident that there will be solidarity in Malaysia."

As far as the right-thinking people of Sarawak Chinese were concerned, he added, they welcomed Malaysia with safeguards knowing that in it there would be peace, stability and prosperity.

The third speaker was the chairman of Party Negara Sarawak, the Datu Bandar, Abang haji Mustapha, who hoped that the Tengku's visit would be the forerunner of many others.

The vast majority of the people of Sarawak, he said supported Malaysia and it was only the communists who opposed it and were still doing all they could to prevent its realisation.

He added: "The people of Sarawak of all races, now realise that the Malaysia Plan is being created for the benefit of all. Independence will be achieved the moment Malaysia comes into being. In short, we realise that through Malaysia we will benefit more in security, defence, economy and other matters."

Referring to the proposal to allocate 40 seats to Sarawak and North Borneo in the future Malaysian Parliament, the Datu Bandar: "We regard this as a very special contribution from a member of the same family towards another. This will deal a heavy blow to those people who allege

that the Malaysia Plan is nothing but neo-colonialism.”

The Datu was followed by the president of the Party Pesaka anak Sarawak, Temenggong Jugah anak Barieng, who expressed the hope that when Malaysia came into being in the new year the Tengku would be able to bring “charm, happiness and strength” to the way of life of the people of Sarawak.

Temenggong Jugah said that there were still many Dayak, Malays and Chinese who did not understand Malaysia and were saying that Sarawak were being sold.

This, he added, was fallacy and malicious. It was doing the public no good. Those who persisted criticising Malaysia, he declared, were communists. The Temenggong said that if the Chinese wanted to live happily in Sarawak they should rejoice when Malaysia materialised.

Problems ahead

The last speaker was Datu Tuanku Bujang, chairman of the Barisan Ra'ayat Jati Sarawak, who said that the increasing political turbulence in South-East Asia and the prospect of the forthcoming general elections next year should be main problems to be considered seriously by all pro-Malaysia parties in Sarawak.

He said his Party was confident that when Malaysia came into being next year the special privileges of the indigenous races would be respected by the Malaysia Government.

Datu Tuanku Bujang continued: “With the provision of these special rights for the natives of Sarawak, we will be able one day to come on an equal footing with other races of Sarawak. It is then that everyone in Sarawak will be able to live in mutual understanding, peace and harmony. There will then exist a more advanced and prosperous Sarawak as a healthy member state within a strong, peaceful and prosperous Malaysia.”

At the end of the rally the crowd stoop up and gave three hearty cries of ‘Hidup Malaysia’ and ‘Merdeka’.

From the rally the Tengku proceeded to the Aurora Hotel where he lunched with about 200 leading members of the Sarawak United Front Parties.

PRESS CONFERENCE

After a short rest at the Astana, the Malayan Prime Minister went to the Information Office to give a press conference.

He began by thanking the people of Sarawak for their welcome and for giving him the opportunity of meeting everybody including the leaders of the different political parties and the Government officials.

He said he wished he could stay longer and “go deep into the kampongs to meet the people in their own surroundings, but time did not permit him to do so.

He hoped, however, that he would be able to come back soon when he would take the full opportunity of meeting everyone and “go everywhere” in the country.

The Tengku then said that he had discussions with the Government servants, both senior and junior officers, some of whom had feelings of anxieties about their jobs and their prospects.

In order to give them the chance to have matters explained to their satisfaction he had suggested that they send representatives to Kuala Lumpur for talks with Establishment Officers.

The Tengku also said that he had spoken at length to the expatriate officers and tried to explain everything possible connected with Malaysia and he felt he had gone quite far and been able to clear whatever doubts they might have had in their minds.

“Majority of natives support Malaysia”

Referring to the opposition to Malaysia, the Tengku said that he was happy to say that there were not very many who opposed it. Most of them, if not all, were not natives of Sarawak: most of the natives welcomed the prospect of Malaysia.

Asked to comment about the anti-Malaysia memoranda sent to him the Tengku replied he was not bothered about them as they had not come from the natives of Sarawak - it would have been different if this had been so.

Questioned on what would be the future of anti-Malaysia parties, such as the Barisan Sosialis of Singapore and the SUPP, he replied: “I think they have got to look after their own future. We don't disallow opposition. For that reason they have expressed themselves very vociferously. The only thing

is they must keep to the law and order and do not try to impose their will on others by using force. They must keep within the pale of law and order and justice.

Asked what proportion of the 40 seats promised to Sarawak and North Borneo would be allocated to Sarawak the Tengku replied that he did not know - that was the task of the Inter-Governmental Committee. He could not prejudge the issue at this stage. He had heard that there had been a request for such a number and he was prepared to grant it.

He went on to refer to the significance of this concession by saying that at present the Malayan Alliance Government, with 77 seats in the House of Representatives, was able to change the law and the Constitution, at any time, but with the 40 seats from the Borneo Territories "we would not be able to do that unless with the fullest approval of the Bornean representatives."

He added: "We would have to make a lot of sacrifice in order to give to the people of Borneo the power we have in our hands today."

In answer to further questions the Tengku felt the question of the division of seats between Sarawak and North Borneo would be left entirely to the Inter-Governmental Committee and to the people themselves.

Asked again what would be the next development regard to this allocation of seats, the Tengku said that though he would have to go back and explain to the people in Malaya, he hoped to have "some support".

From what he had heard they were "naturally feeling very nervous" as it had not as yet been accepted by the Cabinet and thrashed out in Parliament.

He said he had done more or less everything "off his own bat" adding, with a smile: "It was not quite diplomatic".

Free primary education

As to how Sarawak would elect its representatives, the Tengku said that he himself had not gone into it: the matter would be dealt with by the Elections Commission.

He was next asked whether free primary education would be extended to Sarawak immediately after Malaysia and said that if Sarawak fell into line with the education policy, it would receive this benefit.

Turning to Sarawak's Rubber Planting Scheme he said that some time back Sarawak had asked for about six million clonal seeds on which they had preciously to pay tax. Now he had heard from his Finance Minister that the Malayan government would waive the 10 cents per seed export duty. He hoped that as a result of this Sarawak would have more and better yielding rubber trees in the future.

Asked if he was returning as happy as he was when he arrived in Borneo, the Tengku replied that he was returning much happier adding: "Everything has been fine." He also agreed with a smile that the "weather had been good to him."

He referred to anti-Malaysia demonstrations at Miri and Kuching and said he was sorry to see "little kids" among the demonstrators.

He added that in his message before he left Miri he had told them that they should concentrate more on their school work and leave the "dirty work: of politics to those who know something more about it.

Malaysia, said the Tengku in reply to another question, would still go ahead even if Brunei did not come in by the date set. He added: "the intention is to form Malaysia with those countries which are in agreement. I would naturally like Brunei to come in with the rest."

Asked whether there was any prospect of advancing the date for Malaysia the Tengku replied that August 31 was a sentimental one (because it was the date on which Malaya itself became independent) but said that if it was necessary to have it earlier he would welcome the prospect.

In answer to a final question the Tengku said he was satisfied that he had cleared the doubts and fears of those who had them. Some still had fears but felt the natives were keen about Malaysia and appreciated the benefits it would bring.

After the press conference the Tengku went on to Radio Sarawak to make a recorded broadcast.

He said that he was now satisfied that the people understood what Malaysia meant adding: "I have no doubt that the sons of the soil welcome the prospect of Malaysia. On the other hand, there are some people whose origins are from other countries who are not in favour of Malaysia.

'Sarawak will become independent'

"These people, who are in opposition to Malaysia, say that they want to be independent on their own and govern the independent on their own and govern the country themselves. But, as I said, they are all immigrant races who want to rule the country, and because of that if Sarawak becomes an independent country on her own, these people will run the country, sure enough, and will make contact with the powers with whom the people of Sarawak are against.

"The Malaysia which we have in mind is one which will make this country free from the rule of the British and become independent and a partner with the 11 States of Malaya and Singapore.

"This new Malaysia will become a new nation - sovereign and independent - and we will have one Constitution to replace the old Constitution.

"This new Constitution will be drawn up by all concerned in the Malaysian territories and not by the people of Malaysian territories and not by the people of Malaya alone. This is being prepared and worked out by the committee in which the people of Sarawak and Sabah have representatives. This is the proof that you will be on terms of equality with the people of the other territories in Malaysia.

"The new Constitution will guarantee your rights - human rights - for the people of this nation where ever they may be, whether in Malaya or in Borneo. This new Constitution will guarantee your freedom of worship, freedom of speech and expression, freedom of movement and the freedom of assembly.

"This Constitution will also provide for the special rights of the States in Borneo - rights in respect of land, immigration, and rights to administer the country and other rights which you now enjoy. This constitution, too, guarantees parliamentary democracy, which means in Parliament the peoples of these territories will be represented."

After referring to the offer of 40 Borneo seats in the future Malaysia Parliament the Tengku said; "The power given to the territories of Borneo is a big one. As citizens of this country you will enjoy equal rights and will have all the opportunity to be in the cabinet of Malaysia and can even be a Prime Minister.

"With regard to the Government servants, they will have the right to join the bigger services of Malaysia as well as to represent will be no Federation of Malaya, but she will be replaced by the new Federation of list of nations in the United Nations."

The Tengku then said: "The people who are opposed to Malaysia are the communists or those misled by the communists. Those people charge that Malaysia is a new form of imperialism invented by the British using the Federation of Malaya as their tool in order to perpetuate their rule her, and it is also alleged that Malaysia means only a change of masters from British to Malayan. I would like to say here that Malaya does not allow herself to be a tool of others.

'The real imperialist'

"This is seen in all our activities in the United Nations. On the other hand if the British want to perpetuate their rule in this country, no one can oust them or drive them out except through their defeat in war.

"There is no ground therefore for saying that we want to colonise Borneo. You will have representatives, in Parliament with places in the cabinet of Malaysia holding high appointments in this new nation, whereas they are not now represented in any British Parliament - much less in the British Cabinet.

"On the other hand the real imperialists are the communists themselves as you can see what happened in Hungary, in Tibet and now in India. This is a clear proof that they are the real menace to the peace of this world."

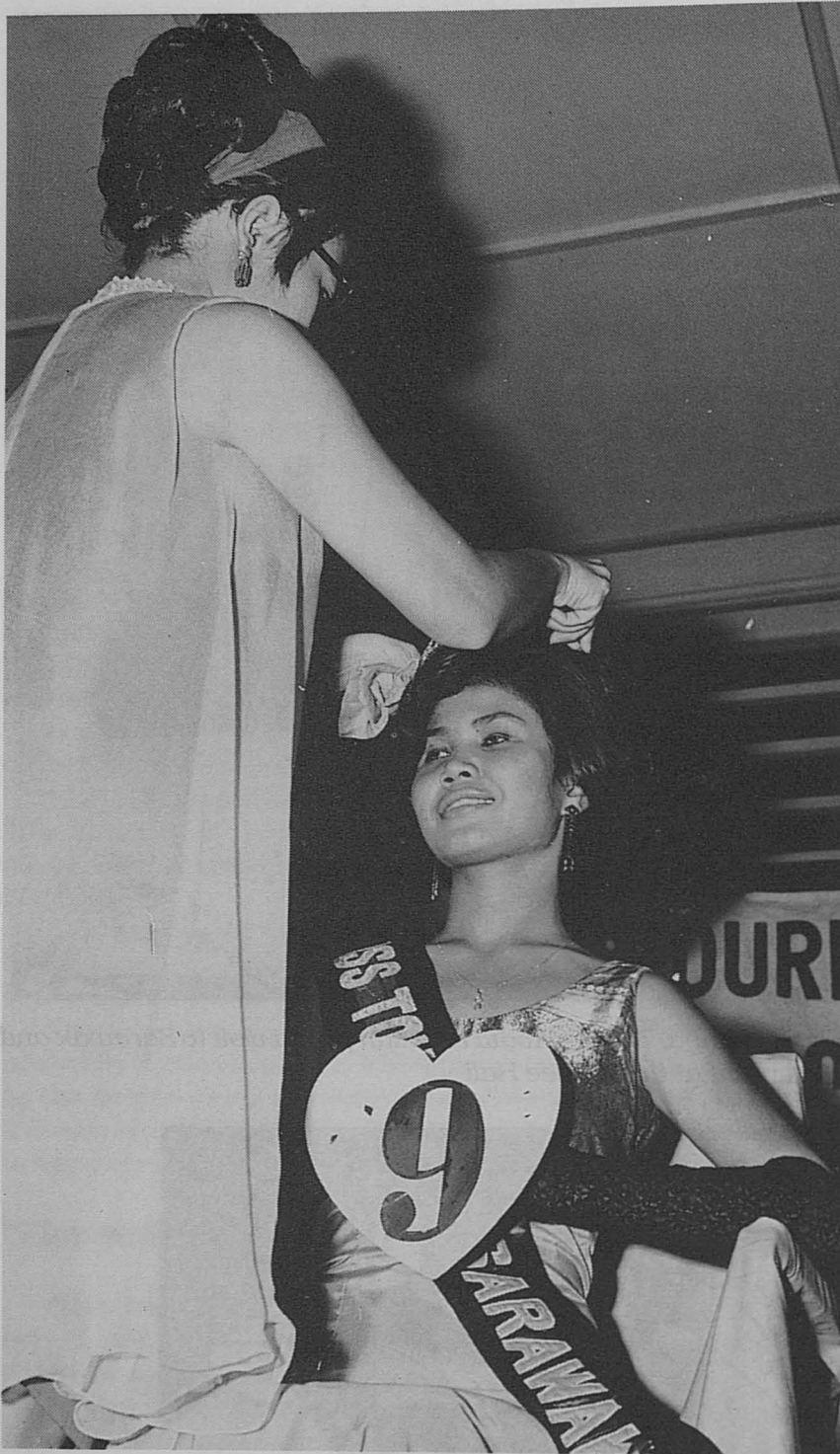
From Radio Sarawak the Tengku left for the airport where he caught a Malayan Airways Viscount aircraft for home.



In November, 1962, the Prime Minister of Malaya, Tengku Abdul Rahman paid a visit to Sarawak and shown speaking at a meeting of civil servant at the Jubilee Hall



Tribune picture shows leaders of the Sarawak United Front with the Malayan Prime Minister and Finance Minister at the political rally. Reading from left are: Mr. William Tan (SCA); Abang Haji Mustapha, the Datu Bandar (PANAS); Mr. Tan Siew Sin, Minister of Finance; Tengku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister; Mr. Stephen Kalong Ningkan (SNAP); Temenggong Jugah (PAPAS); and Datu Tuanku Bujang (BARJASA).



Datin Wee Hood Teck crowns the Miss Tourism

MISS TOURISM SARAWAK CONTEST 1967

There were nine contestants in the contest organised by the Sarawak Tourist Association. Miss Mary Rasiah was unanimously elected "Miss Tourism Sarawak" on 7/8/1967 evening at a Gala Evening at the Jubilee Hall, Miss Rasiah, 20 years old and she is 5.3", a clerk with the Malaysia/Singapore Airlines.

Miss Mary Rasiah was the Ambassador chosen for the very first time to sell Sarawak to the tourist market, and in her thank you speech immediately after she was crowned. She promised to carry out her duty of putting Sarawak on the tourist map, and also to put the people whom she might meet on her trip, in the picture of what she can offer.

Her sash as a 'Ambassador' will be to dispel any fallacy to the effect and to explain to the best of her ability to the people of the eight countries under her visit - which include Australia, what Sarawak now had and can offer to the tourists. Her visit to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Australia must be very interesting - will rightly be a new experience.



Contestant Miss Rosaline Siti in action.



Your smile please.



The M.C. called upon the names of the contestants.



Miss Mary Rasiah showed her graceful action in front of a very big crowd.



This is Miss Jeanee Chan.



Miss Sylvia Lim.



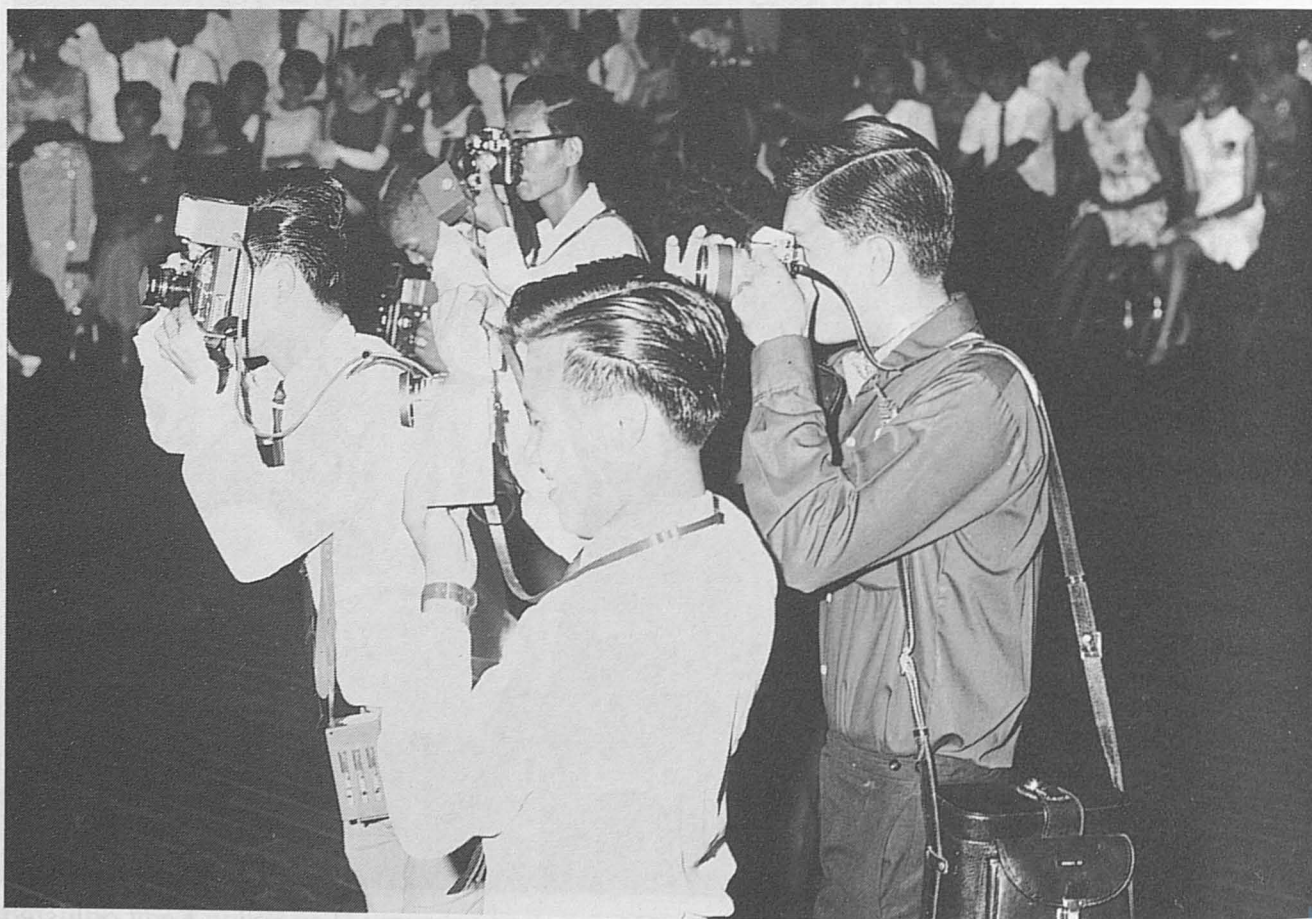
Miss Mary Rasiah winner of the Miss Tourism sarawak organised by the S.T.S. The other contestants were Miss Patricia Cooke. (runner up) Miss Anne Lim (3rd) Miss Janice Wee (4th) and Miss Rosaline Siti, Miss Sylvia Lim, Miss Pauline Cheng, Miss Rochail Charles, Miss Jeanee Chan.



Miss Selina Kedit congratulated Miss Mary Rasiah (seated) top picture. Miss Selina Kedit adjusted the "Miss Tourism Sarawak" crown.



Miss Mary Rasiah (seated) with a broad smile among other contestants Miss Patricia Cooke (No. 8) the runner up.



The press reporters at work.



One section of the crowds as well as the girl guides on duty.



The crowd had the pleasure in witnessed the contestants in action of the Miss Tourism Sarawak organised by the S.T.A



Mrs. Tan Han Boon and Datin Wee Hood Teck in the midst of their conversation.



Miss Mary Rasiyah mentioned that she promise to carry out her duty of putting Sarawak on the tourist map while Datuk Wee Hood Teck listened with interest.



Miss Mary Rasiah (Miss Tourism Sarawak), Datin Wee Hood Teck in the midst of their conversation.



The Chairman of S.T.A. Mr. Tan Han Boon, Datuk Wee Hood Teck, Mrs. Tan Han Boon and Datin Wee.



A tense moment for Mr. Hii and sister.



Mr and Mrs. Kitto (claping hand) while Mr. Kitto at end of the seat.

China (Taiwan) Versus Sarawak Selected Soccer 'International' At Jubilee Ground on 18th August, 1962



The Nationalist China football team beat Sarawak selected 5-0 on the Jubilee Ground on Saturday August 18, 1962.



A section of the V.I.P.

The Manager of the Team, Mr. Tsang King Hong has assured that football fans here will enjoy the game on 18th. He added, however, that his team will go all out and give the home team a good fight and if possible score as many goals as they can.

They are also expected to produce for local fans an excellent display of first class football.

The team is well known for its short accurate passes - tactics which are employed to keep the opponents on the move and so tire them quickly.

Sarawak Selected should be well aware of these tactics and intercept all their passage before disaster befall them. It is expected that Eddy Suhaili, Sarawak's custodian, will have a hectic time at goal. Sarawak players will not be depressed by the number of goals allowed in, but should fight every inch of the ground to give the visitors a difficult time.

From the sales of tickets it is expected that an extremely large crowd will be at the Jubilee Ground tomorrow long before the match begins. Officials of the SAFA/KFA has stressed that children admitted with 50 cents tickets, will not be allowed into grand stand or ground seats. Even though, they are accompanied by their parents, the officials have emphasised that seats will not be allocated to them except the bearers of \$3 and \$2 tickets.

The Sarawak Selected team for tomorrow's big game will comprise of three players from Sibul, two

from Miri and the rest from Kuching.

The team line up will be Eddy Suhaili, Wan Hossein (Capt), Joseph Chua, Yusof Bakar (Sibu), Ibrahim Tambi, Jafar (Sibu), Terrance Janting, Adenan, Suffian (Miri), Bakar (Miri) and Majidi (Sibu). The National China team will consist of the regular players who played in the last Asian games. They are: Kwok Chow Min, Law Pak, Kwok Kam Hung, Chan Fui Hung, Lau Tim, Wong Man Wai, Cheung Chi Wai, Lo Kwok Tai, Kwok Yau, Yiu Cheuk Yin (Capt) and Mok Chun Wak.

The visitors during the tour of North Borneo and Labuan have chalked up their biggest score so far and have trounced most of the home teams by large margin.

Mr. Tsang considered that the standard of football in this part was very low and poor. He attributed it to individualistic play. This, he stressed, was wrong.

"For a team to progress and improve, there should be co-operation and team work among the players and this is not easy to achieve, he said.

"Constant practice seven times a week and throughout the year, builds the team up whereby the players absorb the understanding of each other." It is tough work training a team up to international standards, he added but with the co-operation of players, the international status is built up by having regular matches with international touring team.

Mr. Tsang also said that he was confident that the team would win the Asian Games title this year at Jakarta although there are number of formidable opponents in the Games this year.

They will leave Kuching on Sunday instead of Monday for Singapore.

A very limited number of @2 tickets could still be obtained from Mr. P. Post on Borsumy at aurora Chambers, tomorrow morning during office hours.

To avoid disappointment get your tickets at the earliest possible time.

Nationalist China (Taiwan) Team Arriving Today



Lee Wai
Tong (coach)



Kwok Chow
Min



Law Pak



Kwok Kam
Hung



Lee Kok Wah



Chan Fui
Hung



Lau Tim



Kwok Yau



Li Tuck Wai



Wong Man
Wai



Lo Shun Kua



Lee Wai



Wong Chi
Keung



Yiu Chin
Keung



Cheung Chi
Wai



Lo Kwok Tai



Mok Chun
Wah



Lau Woon
Ching

First Class Football



Mr. Tsang King
Hong

The visitors, representing a team which was won the Asian Games Football Championship two years in succession - 1957 and 1958 - are expected to produce for local fans an excellent display of first class football. Included in the team are players specially hand-picked from the best clubs in Hong Kong and Taiwan and are reckoned the most formidable opponents in this year's Asian Games, where they are expected to clinch the title for yet another time.

The team led by Manager Tsang King Hong who for eight years has been in the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Chinese Athletic Association. Since 1954 he has played an active part in the selection of all Chinese football International Football Referee.

Coach for the team is Lee Wai Tong who is Hon. Secretary of the Asian Football Association and also President of the Hong Kong Disciplinary Committee.

The Players

The players are:- Kwok Chow Min (goalkeeper); Law Pak (full back), Kwok Kam Hung (full back); Lee Kok Wah (full back); Chan Fai Hung (centre half); Lau Tim (half back); Wong Man Wai (half back); Lo Shun Kung (half back); Lee Wai (full back); Wong Chi Keung (right-inside); Yiu Chin Keung (centre forward); Cheung Chi Wai (forward); Li Tuck Wai (forward); Mok Chun Wah (forward) and Lau Woon Ching (forward).

Many of the players have either represented China or Hong Kong in big-time football. They work excellently as a team with short accurate passing. These tactics are employed to keep the opposition on the move and so tire them quickly. When this has been achieved they begin to go for the goals. The visitors have played several games in North Borneo, and two games in Labuan before coming here.

After their performance in Kuching, they will fly to Singapore before they go to Jakarta and the Asian Games Championships.

Pen Pictures

Pen pictures of the players are as follows:-

Kwok Chow Min: Goalkeeper of international status; represented Tsing Toa; very agile and always a frustration to opposing forward.

Law Pak: Right-back, 26; big and tall, a very lively, intelligent and hard-working player; robust tackler; an automatic choice.

Kwok Kam Hung: Full back; played 6 years for South China; made his name this year; selected to represent Formosa; a very young and promising player of medium height; tough, hardworking and very fit.

Lee Kok Wah: Full-back; good footwork; a daring and very experienced player; selected to represent Formosa in last Asian Games; played for Tung Fung in Australia and New Zealand; a regular player for Hong Kong against visiting teams.

Wong Chi Keung: Right-inside, a very fast daring and tricky player; A very well known player; selected to represent Formosa in the coming Asian Games.

Yiu Chi Keung: Centre-forward, 30; a schemer and a brilliant player; A very well known player; generally noted as the best forward in the country; voted the "footballer of the year" for the second year in succession.

Chan Fai Hung: Centre-half, 28; medium height, experienced; played for Tung Fung in 1953; toured Australia; represented Formosa in last Asian Games; considered the best half-back in Asia; idol of Hong Kong football fans.

Lau Tim: International half-back; well known in Hong Kong; represented Formosa; played for Nam Hwa, Kowloon Bus; also plays Basketball, tennis and table tennis.

Wong Man Wai: Centre-half; Formosa, Olympic and Asian Games player; Plays attacking game; sound in defence; a very accurate and powerful kicker.

Lee Wai: Full-back; a new-comer to the team; a very stout defender, always a stumbling block to opposing forwards; played for Kwang Hua.

Cheung Chi Wai: Centre-forward, 16; a dashing tireless players; played in Asian Youth Cup.

Lo Kwok Tai: Forward; very good footwork; play either inside left or right; and a well known water polo player.

Kwok Yau: Forward; a played in half-back position; not a temperamental player; played for Chek Tze and South China; a younger brother of Kwok Chow Min.

Li Tuck Wai: Forward; very fast and tricky play with very good body balance played for South China.

Mok Chun Wah: Forward with very accurate passes, sharpshooter; back of South China team.

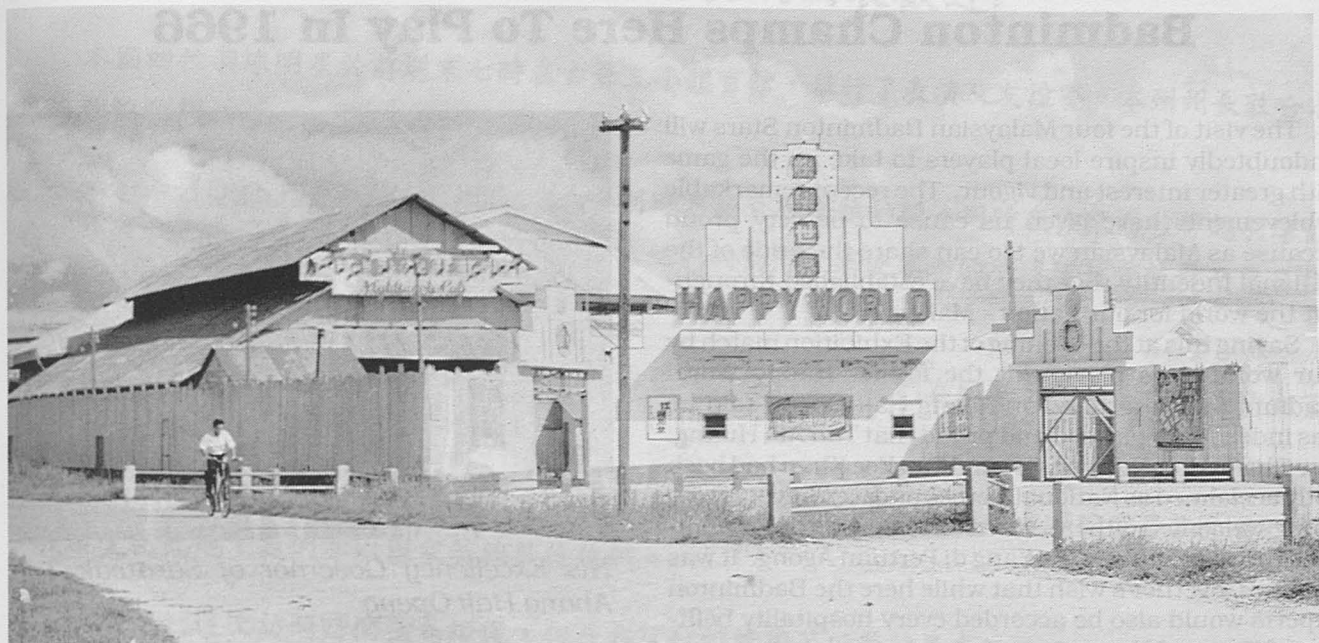
Lau Woon Ching: Forward; newcomer; well known in Macau; played for Tsi Toa; has improved since placed in last Asian Games.

Tsang King Hong: Manager, 45; well known and liked by all, a very capable official of international fame Supervisor of Chinese A.A. for 8 years; Vice Chairman Hong Kong Chinese Football Association Referee Board.

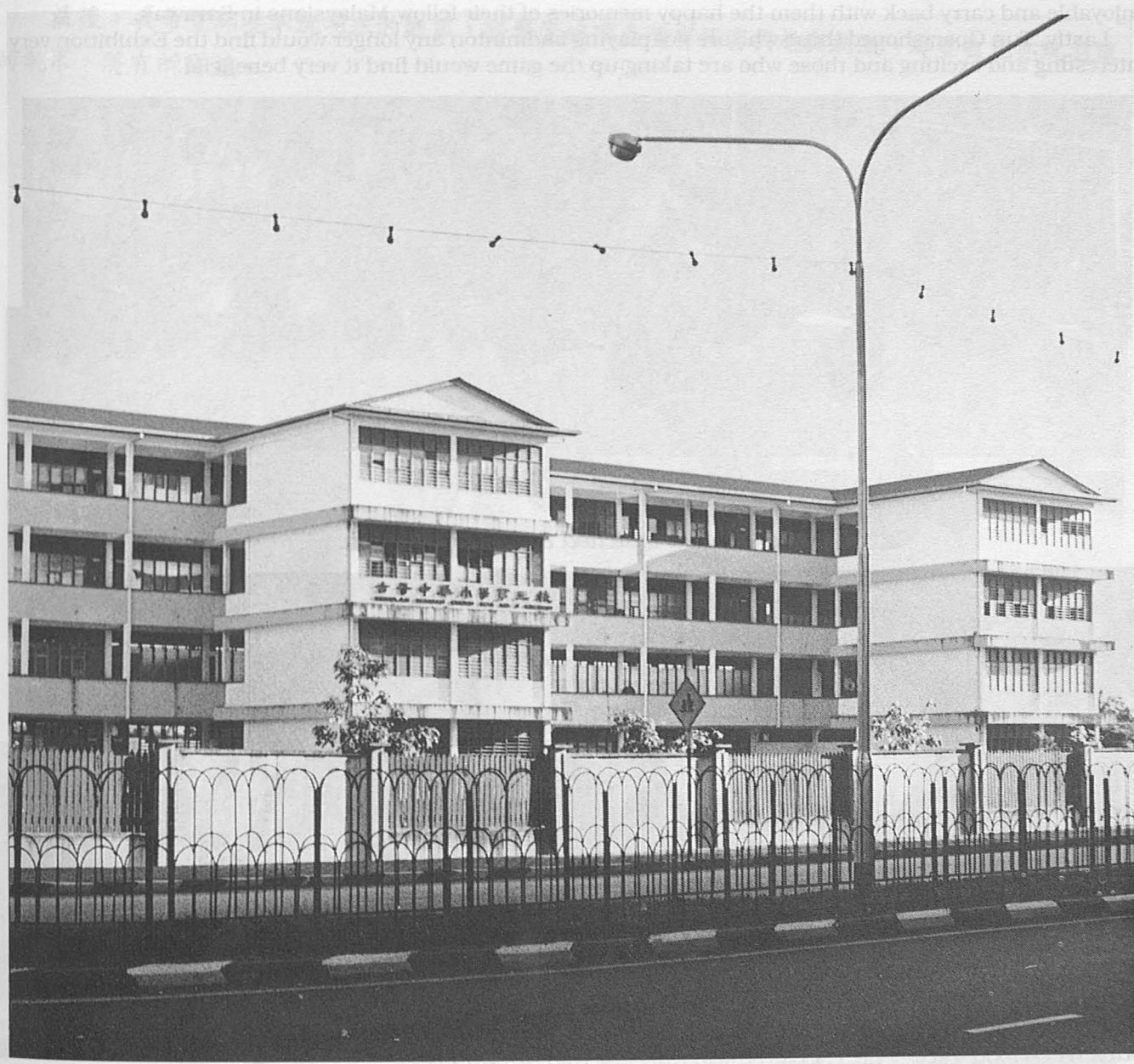
Li Wai Tong: Coach, well known figure in the football circle; Secretary of Asia Football Federation; Chairman of Hong Kong Chinese Football Association Referee Board.

馬來西亞四位球明星抵晉
舉行表演賽謝長致詞表歡迎

Bedlington Change Hets To Play In 1968



The former Happy World Stadium (above). The Kuching Hua Primary school occupied the site.



Badminton Champs Here To Play In 1966

The visit of the four Malaysian Badminton Stars will undoubtedly inspire local players to take up the game with greater interest and vigour. The recent remarkable achievements have given us cause to be very proud because as Malaysian we too can share the pride of the National Identity that they have established throughout the world for our nation - Malaysia.

Saying this at the opening of the Exhibition match by four world-class players at the former Happy World Stadium the Governor Tun Abang Haji Openg said he was indeed very pleased and proud that Tan Aik Huang, Yew Cheng Hoe, Ng Boon Bee and Tan Yee Khan had been aptly acclaimed as National Heroes and were given a very fitting welcome on their return culminating in an audience with His Majesty the Yang di Pertuan Agong. It was also the Governor's wish that while here the Badminton Experts would also be accorded every hospitality befitting of National Heroes.

His Excellency added: In the midst of our happiness it is most unfortunate the circumstance do not permit them to stay long. Nevertheless, I wish that despite their very short stay they will find it very pleasant and enjoyable and carry back with them the happy memories of their fellow Malaysians in Sarawak.

Lastly, Tun Openg hoped those who are not playing badminton any longer would find the Exhibition very interesting and exciting and those who are taking up the game would find it very beneficial.



His Excellency Governor of Sarawak Tun Abang Haji Openg



A huge crowd watched the exciting match.



Mr. Chartie Siew the captain of the Malaysian Badminton team, Datin Wee Hood Teck, His Excellency Datu Wee Hood Teck, Puan Sri Masniah and her two daughters.

馬來西亞四位羽球明星抵晉 舉行表演賽州長致詞表歡迎

本國四位羽球明星於前週末七時在古晉三小體育館，舉行了表演及友誼賽。本州州長敦哈志奧本親臨致詞。

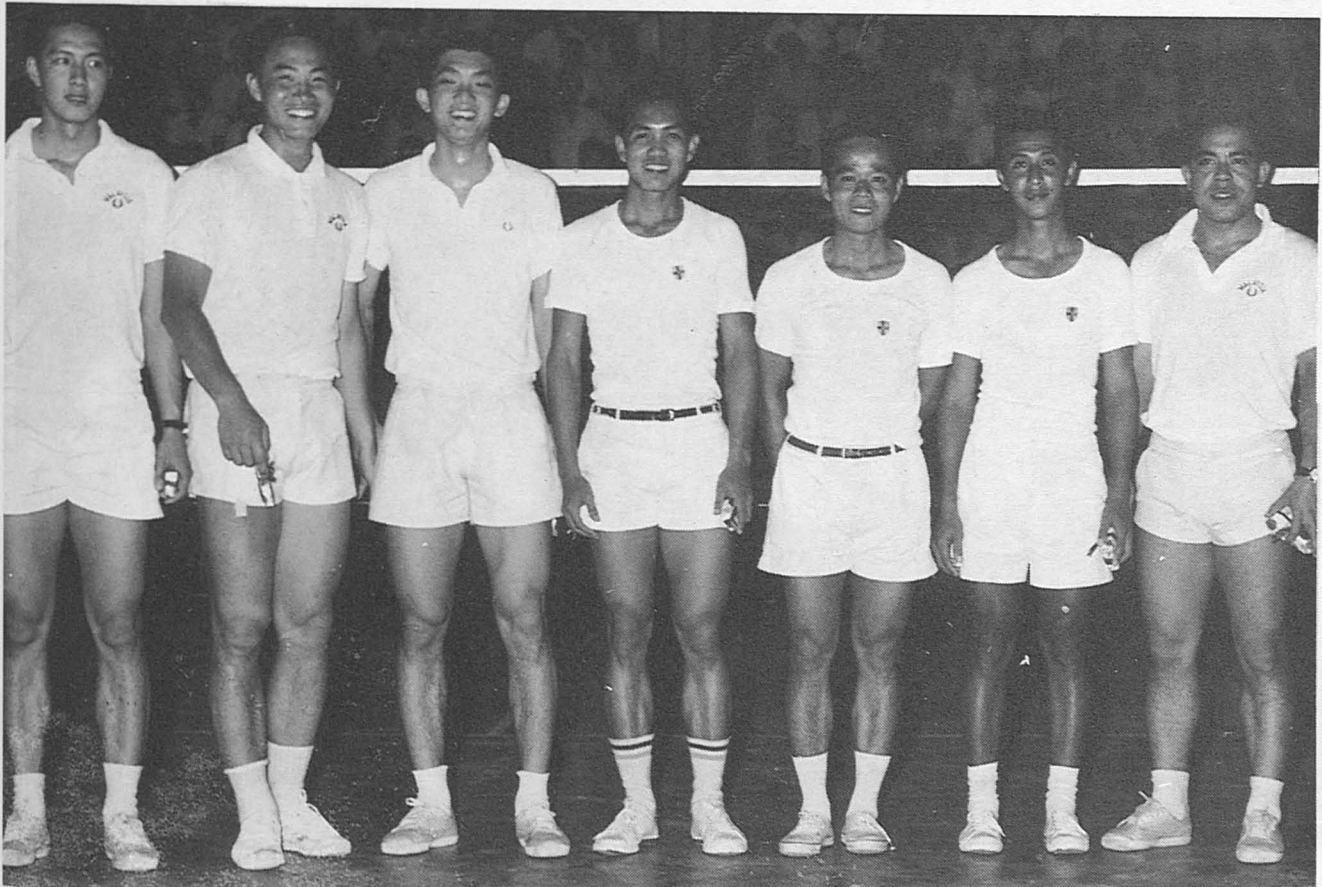
我極高興能有此機會歡迎我們馬來西亞羽球名將來砂勞越訪問。同時我亦欲向砂勞越羽球協會會長能安排他們的來訪，表示賀意。我相信他們的訪問，將使本州的羽球球員受鼓舞而更精益求精。

他們最近的輝煌成就，使我們作為馬來西亞人引以為榮。他們在國際上已替馬來西亞豎立了國家身份，我們亦能分享這驕傲。

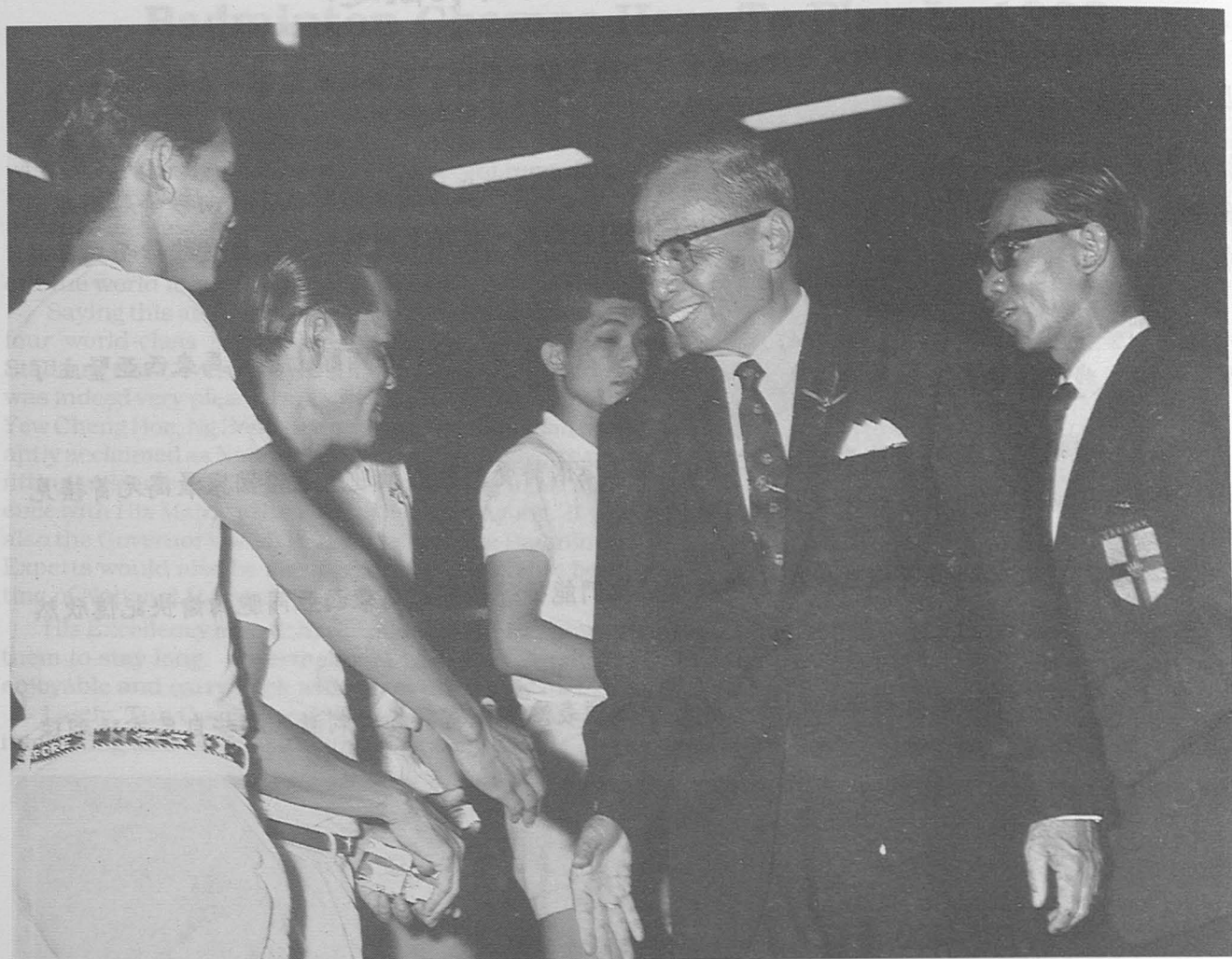
我極欣慰他們已被適當地譽為國家英雄，並在返國時受到熱烈歡迎，並獲國家最高元首接見。我希望在此地，我們亦以國家英雄款待他們。

雖然他們這次訪問時間極為短促，但我希望他們能帶著砂勞越馬來西亞同胞的愉快記憶欣然而歸。

最後，我希望那些不玩羽球的觀眾，將發覺這項表演賽極富興趣與刺激，那些自己亦玩羽球的觀眾，將有所得益。



馬來西亞西四亞來馬
舉計泰歐賽洲身娃陸泰輝



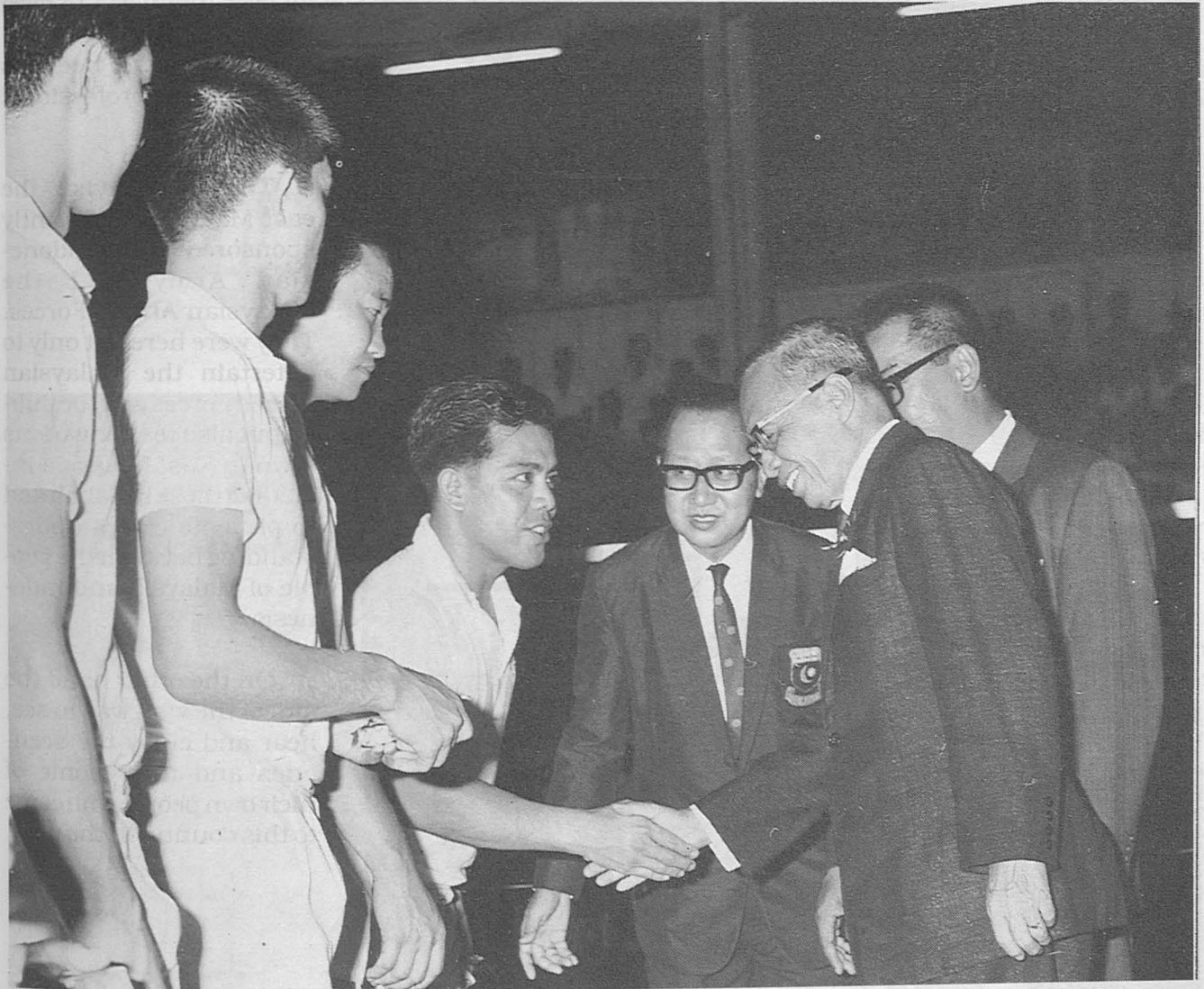
Tun Abang Haji Openg met our local badminton star Lim Khiok Seng and Abang Sukori.



A section of the crowd watched the thrilling badminton match.



Picture show Dato Wee on behalf of Sarawak Badminton Association presenting souvenir to the Malaysia Badminton Stars as well as local selected players.



The Governor Tun Abang Haji Openg shook hand with Ng Boon Bee while Tah Yee Khan and Tan Oik Huang, Yew Chang Hoe looked on.

“Viatikara” The Show With A Different 1968

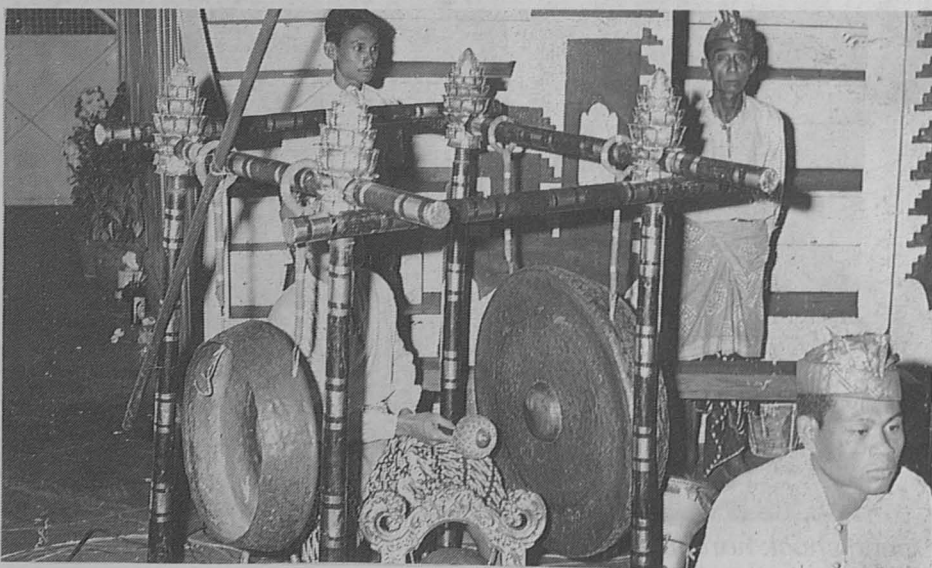


The first time ever that a 70 strong Indonesian cultural troupe known as “Viatikara” offered many people in Kuching with a chance to see and at the same time contributed a worthy course a rare performance of musical and dancing culture of a neighbouring nation whose people have almost similar ethical and history background as Malaysia.

The troupe artist including twenty five girls who are amateur university students in high school graduates chosen all over Indonesia to form the group, but their performance have been as good as the professional standard.

The troupe visit the east Malaysia was jointly sponsored by the Indonesian Army and the Malaysian Armed Forces. They were here not only to entertain the Malaysian Armed Forces and the public but also to tour various town in East Malaysia including those in Sabah and to promote closes understanding between the people of Malaysia and Indonesia.

On the other hand the aim of the visit was to see, hear and enjoy the sceneries and meet some of their own people who come to this country in the past.





Among the various items that presented by the visiting Indonesian troupe a classical Balinese dance "Tari Potong Padi" dance of the Padi cutter, Kuda Limping, dance of the horse. Tari Tepeng Menakdingga which tells the struggle of a historic King for Blambangan in the golden age of Majapahit. Tari Payong the umbrella dance of Sumatra and there were many other item shown by them such as Tari Tempurong the coconut shell dance. Tari Marek, the peacock dance, Tari Pemetek Teh, the dance of tea picking, Tari Kandang, a classical Indonesia dance which was originally performed by Indonesia Royalty, Tari Kunang-kunang, the fire fly dance, Tari Nelayan, the dance of a fisherman and Tari Tembalilingan another classic dance of Bali.

Besides presenting items of classical flavour, the Viatikara Band which also accompanied many other items.

The current performance by the cultural troupe attracted thousand of people in and around Kuching flocked to the Former Happy World Stadium as from 6th to 11th May 1968. The proceed of which was donated to the Malaysian Armed Forces and State Welfare Fund.



The Tari Payung, the umbrella dance of Sumatra.



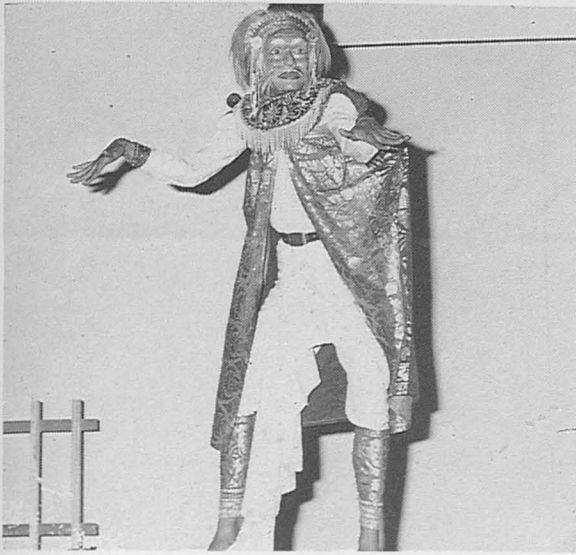
Kuda Limping, dance of the horse.



Another graceful movement of the umbrella dance.



This is another classical dance of the "Viatikara" of the Indonesia Cultural Troupe.



Classical dance of Bali.



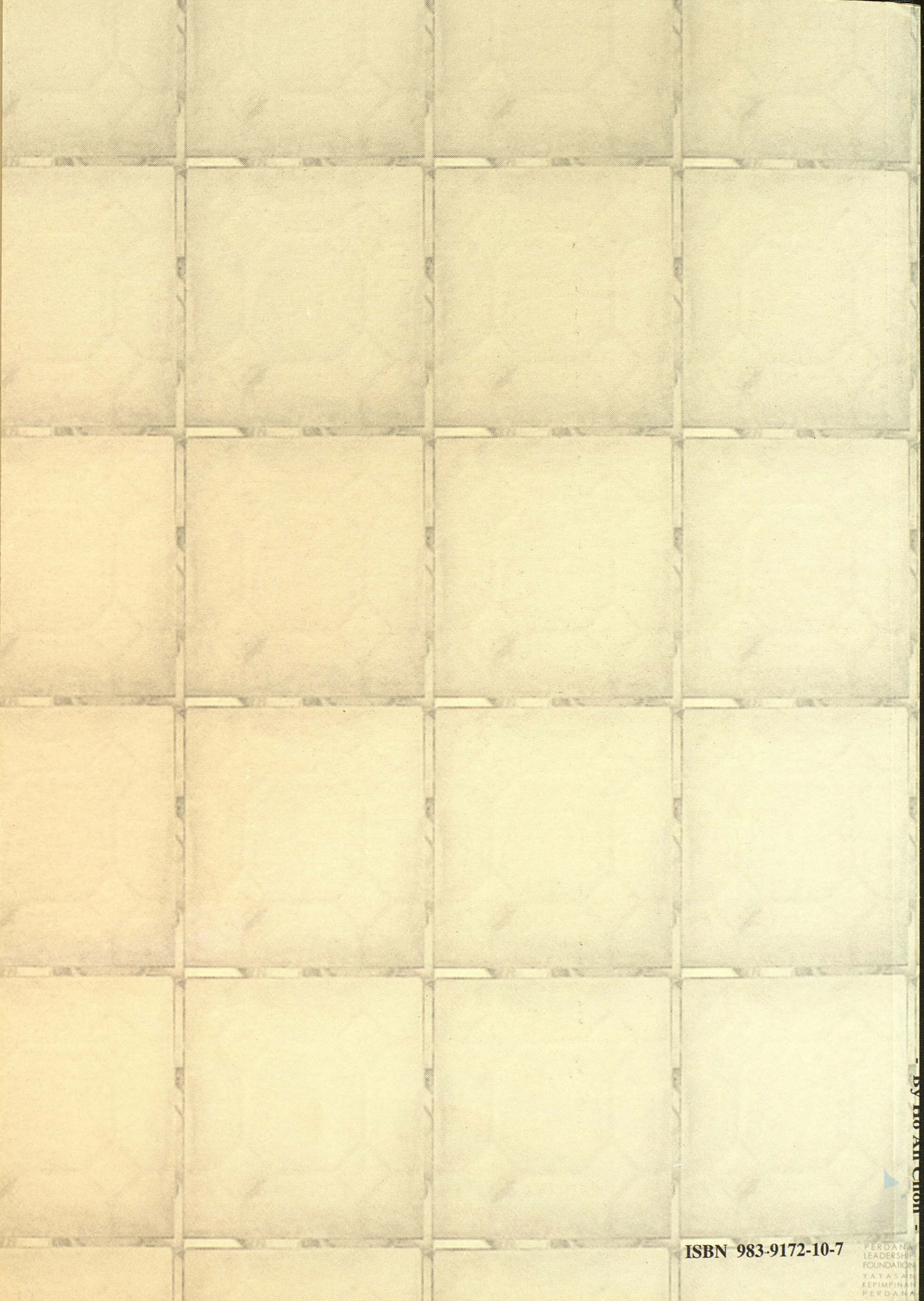
The Balinese Fan dance.



The Viatikara Band performed the classical and modern popular songs.



Angklung the Indonesian famous bamboo band.



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