

27/10/1998

Eminent Journalist Award for late Fuad Stephens

FOR CONTRIBUTION TO JOURNALISM ... Toh Puan Rahimah Stephens receiving the Malaysian Press Institute's National Eminent Journalist Award on behalf of her late husband Tun Mohammed Fuad Stephens.

The presentation by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after the opening of the Commonwealth Press Union Biennial Conference at Shangri-La Hotel yesterday was a posthumous recognition of Fuad's contribution to journalism.

CPU executive director Mark Robinson is at left.

Born on Sept 14, 1920, Fuad became Sabah's first Chief Minister after independence through Malaysia in 1963.

His involvement in journalism started in his home State, at the North Borneo News. He used the pseudonym Vox Populi.

After a stirring letter that came to be known as the "Blood is Thicker Than Water", in which he berated the colonial masters for their discrimination against local civil servants, he was invited to write articles for the paper.

Fuad then set up his own newspaper, the Sabah Times with only RM1,000 as capital.

The inaugural edition of the first daily in North Borneo hit the newsstand in March 1952 with him as the editor, typist, reporter, typesetter and delivery boy.

Two years later, he bought over North Borneo News and proceeded to combine it with Sabah Times.

Fuad, who was killed in a plane crash in Tanjung Aru near Kota Kinabalu in 1976, was one of the signatories of the Federation of Malaysia Agreement.

Previous recipients of the award are Tan Sri A. Samad Ismail, Tan Sri Lee Siew Yee and Datuk Ishak Mohamed (Pak Sako).

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