

26 OCT 1998

Award-Journalist

LATE TUN FUAD RECEIVES NATIONAL EMINENT JOURNALIST AWARD

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- Former Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri the late Tun Mohammed Fuad Stephens was posthumously awarded the prestigious Malaysian Press Institute's National Eminent Journalist Award today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad presented the award to his widow, Toh Puan Rahimah Stephens at the Commonwealth Press Union Biennial Conference opening ceremony here.

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

His involvement in journalism began when he started contributing to the only newspaper in his home state, the North Borneo News, with the favourite pseudonym of 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 indiscrimination against local civil servants, he was invited to write articles for the paper.

Mohammed Fuad then set up his own daily newspaper, the Sabah Times with only RM1,000 as his capital after drawing experience from the North Borneo News.

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

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

He was one of the signatories of the Federation of Malaysia Agreement.

Tun Fuad was killed in a plane crash in Tanjung Aru near Kota Kinabalu in 1976.

-- BERNAMA

NHZ RAZ AAM