

Sabah

25 YEARS LATER

1963 - 1988

Edited by

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INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (SABAH)

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PEJABAT KETUA MENTERI
KOTA KINABALU
SABAH
MALAYSIA

FOREWORD

As a publication to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Sabah's independence within Malaysia this book is a fitting memorial to the united stand that the people of Sabah had taken as one people at crucial times, and to the great efforts that were made to maintain peace and unity and to achieve progress and prosperity in the last 25 years.

The book spotlights the birth of a new nation in 1963, of which we are an important part, and discusses the problems and uncertainties which attended our first faltering steps in search of a political identity, and our quest for material progress which independence promised.

In human terms 25 years is a stage in life when a person is expected to have gained some knowledge and experience that he can draw on to help him decide what to do with his future. Although a quarter of a century is a very short time indeed in the life of a country, Sabah's 25 years have seen such momentous change and development and such gigantic strides to the 20th Century that the whole process presents a case history of great significance, and perhaps of special interest to planners and scholars, especially those who wish to study the effects of rapid change on a society embroiled in such an upheaval.

This book discusses some events and issues which figured prominently in Sabah's post-independence history and which may have great ramifications still for the future, and therefore ought to be studied by the younger generations, especially those who aspire to be Sabah's future leaders.

If knowledge of the past makes for a better perspective of the future, this commemorative publication should provide us with a useful hindsight that will make us a little wiser and perhaps better able to anticipate and avoid some of the pitfalls that may lie ahead.

I would like to thank the Institute for Development Studies and the writers and all those who have contributed in one way or another to the publication of this book which I think commends itself creditably to anyone who wishes to know something of Sabah's recent past, or who generally wishes to know Sabah and its people a little better.

(DATUK JOSEPH BIN KITIKAN)
Chief Minister of Sabah