

**Aug 31 rightful day of celebration for Sabahans, not Sept 16, says Jeffrey Kitingan
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Sabahans should remember and celebrate the day it was freed from the burden of colonialism and became a free and independent nation - August 31 - said Borneo Heritage Foundation.

Its chairman Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan (pic) noted that the date was even more significant for East Malaysians than Malaysia Day on Sept 16, as it meant that they would have ruled the state themselves even if Malaysia had not materialised.

He added that Malaysia Day should be renamed as "Federation Day" as that was when the Federation of Malaysia was formed.

The Borneo Post reported that Jeffrey said the four nations of Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak agreed to form Malaysia with conditions that their newly-acquired independence and individuality would be maintained except for security matters as stated in several documents including the 20-Points (Sabah), 18-Points (Sarawak), the IGC Report, the Cobbold Commission Report and Article VIII of the Malaysia Agreement.

However, he said the reality was that Sabah has been "taken over by Malaya under the guise of the Federal Government and is now functioning as the 12th subservient State of Malaya = Malaysia."

"That is why Sabahans must wake up, realize and take action to remind themselves of who they are, what is Sabah and recover their legitimate rights as a sovereign nation.

"The government of Sarawak has taken that important step to celebrate their independence day on July 22nd, why not Sabah?" the daily reported him as saying.

It was now up to the Sabah state government, he said, to follow suit of their counterpart in Kuching, to celebrate Sabah's Independence Day on August 31 which marks its 50th anniversary. - August 1, 2013.

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