

TRAILBLAZER LIFE & LEGACY ABU BAKAR OF PAHANG



TUNKU ISKANDAR DZULKARNAIN
& NINOT AZIZ



YHM DATO' SETIA JAYA TUNKU DATO' ISKANDAR DZULKARNAIN BIN TUNKU DATO' ISMAIL

Historian & Genealogist

With a name straight out of the Sejarah Melayu, or the Malay Annals, it is not surprising that YHM Tunku Dato Iskandar Dzulkarnain bin Tunku Ismail is dedicated to keeping the history, heritage and 'histoires' alive. In particular, the essence and psyche of the people that make up the thousand year old Pahang polity.

YHM Tunku Dato's education began at the Assunta Kindergarten, Kuantan in 1972 and St Thomas Primary School 1973. Even at this very young age, Tunku was fascinated with history and read the renown historian Sejarahwan Buyung Adil's work, Sejarah Pahang from cover to cover. It was to spur a life-long passion and dedicated research into history especially the history of his home state, Pahang Darul Makmur.

After finishing college at Maktab Rendah Sains Mara, the young prince went on to continue his studies at Geelong College, in Victoria Australia and later in UK at the American College in London, England.

The eldest in a family of eight, his passion and dedication to history is manifested in many ways. It began with his research into family genealogy and he travelled all over the country creating bridges to family especially those who have been displaced and separated far and wide for over a hundred years. He enjoyed travelling to the old historical sites and remote villages to witness himself the remnants of the past.

One such reconnection was with the renown writer TunSuzana Othman who had no inkling of her ties to the Pahang royal family. In this way, Tunku Dato kindled the young writer's own interest in history where she is today, a leading historian herself. In fact, TunSuzana provided key research material to TRAILBLAZER.

As a Life member of Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia Pahang (Association of Malaysian History - Pahang), YHM Tunku is also Advisor to the Persatuan Silat Tapan Tiga Malaysia and President of the Pertubuhan Keris Semenanjung Malaysia (Keris Association of the Peninsular). Known for his photographic memory, he has been invited to assist many museums in identifying places and objects in the last 30 years.

The fifty eight year old corporate figure chose a career in business and design work.

Today, he helms IBC Assets Berhad and the Newman Trust Investment Bank.

Apart from history, YHM Tunku has a keen interest in kris and supports the silat movement in the country. He deems both the silat and kris as key to the identity of the quintessential Malay Man.

12th July 2025

Yang Amat Berbahgia

Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohammad

Wishing you a very happy birthday
& may Allah swt bless you always.

Dengan Ikhlas.

~~Aslan~~
(Tengku Aslan)

10/9/2022
TDM
FOC

TRAILBLAZER

LIFE & LEGACY ABU BAKAR OF PAHANG

TUNKU ISKANDAR DZULKARNAIN
&
NINOT AZIZ



PUSTAKA PERDANA



1013992



290978

TRAILBLAZER
Life and Legacy | Abu Bakar of Pahang

A publication supported by
IBC Group of Companies

First Edition 2024

© 2024 **Tunku Dato' Iskandar Dzulkarnain bin Tunku Dato' Ismail**
& **Zalina Abdul Aziz @ Ninot Aziz**

All Rights Reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing to the publisher. Decisions will be dependent upon royalty considerations of honorariums.

ISBN 978-629-7654-06-5

National Library of Malaysia Cataloguing Data for Publication
YHM Dato' Setia Jaya Tunku Dato Iskandar Dzulkarnain bin Tunku Dato' Ismail 1966
Ninot Aziz 1965

TRAILBLAZER – Life & Legacy | Abu Bakar of Pahang
History - Malaysia

1. Walid Muhammad. 2. Ariyana Ahmad

TRAILBLAZER
Life and Legacy Abu Bakar of Pahang

Written by

YHM Dato' Setia Jaya Tunku Dato Iskandar Dzulkarnain bin Tunku Dato' Ismail
and **Ninot Aziz**

Published by:

Hikayat Fandom Sdn Bhd
Lot 1-21, Level 1
GMBB, No 2 Jalan Robertson
50150 Kuala Lumpur

Edited by:

YHM Dato' Setia Jaya Tunku Dato Iskandar Dzulkarnain bin Tunku Dato' Ismail
Ninot Aziz, TunSuzana Othman and Johnny Gillett

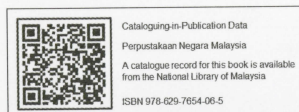
Design and Layout by:

Kamazeri Nordin

Printed by

Firdaus Press Sdn Bhd. (SSM- 986966-A)

No. 28, Jalan PBS 14/4,
Taman Perindustrian Bukit Serdang,
43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor.



923.159523

TRAILBLAZER

LIFE & LEGACY ABU BAKAR OF PAHANG

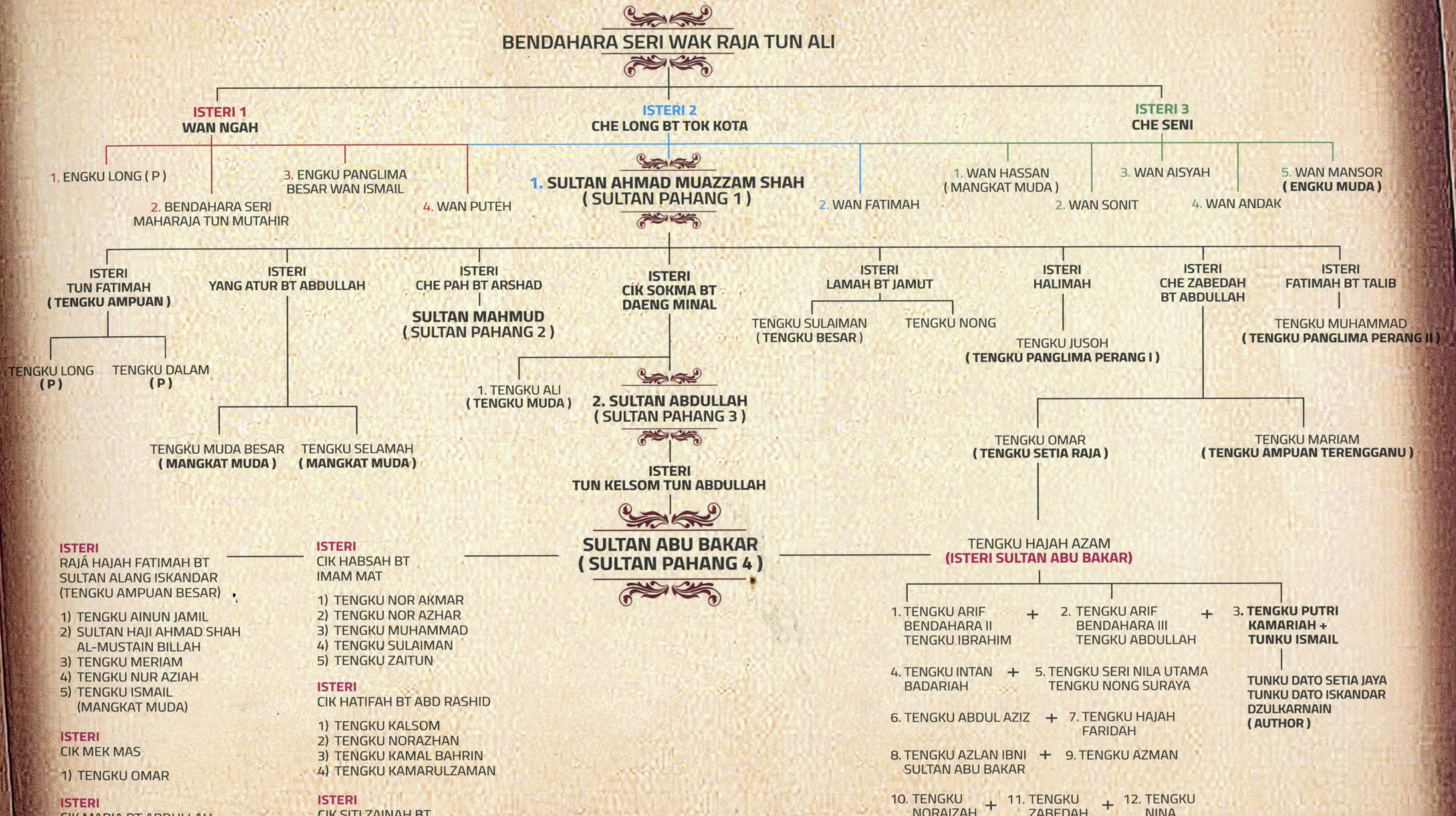


The Keris Pahang Lok Tiga and Bunga Pekan are featured throughout the book as a reminder of the importance of adat, valor and traditional values in Pahang.





SALASILAH SULTAN SIR ABU BAKAR RIYATUDDIN AL-MUADZAM SHAH



ISTERI
RAJÁ HAJAH FATIMAH BT SULTAN ALANG ISKANDAR (TENGGU AMPUAN BESAR)

- 1) TENGGU AINUN JAMIL
- 2) SULTAN HAJI AHMAD SHAH AL-MUSTAIN BILLAH
- 3) TENGGU MERIAM
- 4) TENGGU NUR AZIAH
- 5) TENGGU ISMAIL (MANGKAT MUDA)

ISTERI
CIK MEK MAS

- 1) TENGGU OMAR

ISTERI
CIK MARIA BT ABDULLAH

- 1) TENGGU NOR ASHIKIN
- 2) TENGGU IDRIS
- 3) TENGGU BAHARUDDIN

ISTERI
CIK HABSAB BT IMAM MAT

- 1) TENGGU NOR AKMAR
- 2) TENGGU NOR AZHAR
- 3) TENGGU MUHAMMAD
- 4) TENGGU SULAIMAN
- 5) TENGGU ZAITUN

ISTERI
CIK HATIFAH BT ABD RASHID

- 1) TENGGU KALSOM
- 2) TENGGU NORAZHAN
- 3) TENGGU KAMAL BAHRIN
- 4) TENGGU KAMARULZAMAN

ISTERI
CIK SITI ZAINAH BT SHEIKH AHMAD

TIADA ZURIAT

ISTERI
CIK HALIMAH

TIADA ZURIAT

DISEDIAKAN :	WAN JOHARI BIN WAN MAHMUD BIRO PENYELIDIKAN DAN PENERBITAN PERSATUAN SEJARAH MALAYSIA CAWANGAN PAHANG. NO. AHLI ASH: CD152
TARIKH :	31.10.24

C O N T E N T



SALASILAH

Foreword	Tengku Azlan ibni Sultan Abu Bakar YHM Dato' Setia Jaya Tunku Dato Iskandar Dzulkarnain	xi xv
Prologue	Dangerous Times	xix
Preamble	Preface	xxv
Chapter 1	Pahang	1
Chapter 2	Prince	11
Chapter 3	War	23
Chapter 4	Warriors of Bukit Segumpal	27
Chapter 5	Becoming King	33
Chapter 6	His Highness, The Malay Sovereign	45
Chapter 7	Daulat	61
Chapter 8	The Royal 'Pawang' Nong Taib	77
Chapter 9	Sacred Oath	89
Photo Album		100
Chapter 10	Defender of the Faith	107
Chapter 11	'Adat'	125
Chapter 12	Cosmology	141
Chapter 13	Silat	149

TRAILBLAZER



Chapter 14	Culture	159
Chapter 15	Royal Pedigree and Kindred Ties	169
Chapter 16	Special Bond to the Rakyat	191
Chapter 17	Festivals	205
Chapter 18	The Sports Enthusiast	213
Chapter 19	Embracing Winds of Change	223
Chapter 20	“Hostage”	237
Chapter 21	Malay Solidarity in Independence Struggle	253
Chapter 22	His Highness and the Military	269
Chapter 23	‘Merdeka!’	285
Chapter 24	Pahang After Merdeka	293
Chapter 25	Confronting Challenges	315
Chapter 26	Legacies	335
Epilogue		341
Appendix I	‘Origin of Bendahara Dynasty’	347
Appendix II	Beginning of the Protectorate	365
Appendix III	Of ‘Pawangs’ and ‘Dukuns’	381
Interviews		385
References		387
Bibliography		391



TRAILBLAZER



Tengku Azlan ibni Sultan Abu Bakar

X

TRAILBLAZER



FOREWORD



TENGGU AZLAN IBNI SULTAN ABU BAKAR

As I reflect on the history of our beloved Pahang, there emerges a towering figure, a colossus of leadership and compassion – Al-Marhum Sultan Abu Bakar. My father was not just a ruler; he was the heartbeat of our state, the Lion of Pahang whose roar resonated with the hopes and dreams of the people.

Sultan Abu Bakar's approach to governance was simple yet profound: people first. His unwavering commitment to the well-being of his subjects was a hallmark of his character, earning him the endearing title of the People's Sultan.

In every corner of Pahang, Sultan Abu Bakar was a ubiquitous presence, a living embodiment of the state itself. Whether battling floods, inaugurating schools, or standing tall at the historic moment of Merdeka in 1957, he was Pahang, and Pahang was him.

The early years of Sultan Abu Bakar's reign were fraught with challenges – a nascent nation finding its footing, the specter of communism, and the devastating force of nature in the form of great floods. Yet, through it all, his indomitable spirit and innate wisdom guided Pahang towards stability and prosperity.

Beyond his duties as a ruler, Sultan Abu Bakar was a man of diverse passions. His love for sports and his affinity for horses were well-known, endearing him even more to his people and adding layers to his legacy.

Today, as we look back on his remarkable life and legacy, we find a tapestry of inspiration woven through the fabric of time. Sultan Abu Bakar's unique brand of leadership transcends eras, offering a timeless example of service, dedication, and love for one's land.

It is my hope that this biography will serve not only as a tribute to a great man but also as a guiding light for present and future leaders, reminding them of the enduring power of compassion, humility, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of the people.

May Sultan Abu Bakar's legacy continue to inspire and guide us, just as his spirit continues to watch over the land he loved so dearly.

I would like to thank the unwavering efforts of my nephew, YHM Tunku Iskandar Dzulkarnain in spearheading this work, a lifelong dedication to the history of our Nation and Pahang in particular.

TENGGU AZLAN IBNI SULTAN ABU BAKAR





*YHM Dato' Setia Jaya Tunku Dato Iskandar Dzulkarnain
bin Tunku Dato' Ismail*



FOREWORD



YHM DATO' SETIA JAYA
TUNKU DATO ISKANDAR DZULKARNAIN
BIN TUNKU DATO' ISMAIL

Alhamdulillah, all praise to Allah for the opportunity to delve into the extraordinary life of Sultan Abu Bakar, the fourth Sultan of Pahang. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my uncle, YAM Tengku Panglima Besar Tengku Tan Sri Azlan, for entrusting me with the assembly of this biography.

A man larger than life and dearly cherished by his people, Sultan Abu Bakar's reign, spanning over four decades, marked a crucial chapter in the annals of Pahang's history. It witnessed the challenges of colonial dominance, the harrowing era of Japanese occupation, and the subsequent emergence of the nation's independence and modernization.

This biography not only explores the reign of Sultan Abu Bakar but also reimagines the history of Pahang from its earliest origins, shedding light on moments of internal turmoil and the captivating way of life of the Orang Pahang.

His Highness's profound connection with his people transcended mere governance; it exemplified his profound empathy and unwavering commitment to their well-being.

TRAILBLAZER

Through poignant narratives, archival photographs, and the delightful charm of illustrations and sketches capturing a bygone era, the story and persona of Sultan Abu Bakar come vividly to life.


I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Ninot Aziz for her steadfast dedication, drawing upon personal family anecdotes that span generations serving alongside Pahang's very first modern-day Sultan. I am deeply thankful to Hj Muzaffar Dato Haji Mohamad and Tun Suzana Othman for their invaluable research contributions and to the late Wan Kamazeri for his exceptional design work, which is carried forward by his widow, Puan Anita Ismail. Furthermore, I acknowledge the editorial work by Johnny Gillett and exquisite artwork by Walid Muhammad and Ariyana Ahmad, enriching the biography's overall quality.

May this biography stand as a poignant homage to my grandfather Sultan Abu Bakar, encapsulating the essence of an exceptional leader and the enduring legacy that continues to shape the vibrant tapestry of Pahang's history.

**YHM DATO SETIA JAYA
TUNKU DATO ISKANDAR DZULKARNAIN
BIN TUNKU DATO ISMAIL**



Daulat Tuanku



Sultan Abu Bakar's approach to governance was simple yet profound: people first. His unwavering commitment to the well-being of his subjects was a hallmark of his character, earning him the endearing title of the People's Sultan.

In every corner of Pahang, Sultan Abu Bakar was a ubiquitous presence, a living embodiment of the state itself. Whether battling floods, inaugurating schools, or standing tall at the historical moment of Merdeka in 1957, he was Pahang, and Pahang was him.

Sultan Abu Bakar's early years were fraught with challenges – a nascent nation finding its footing, the specter of communism, and the devastating force of nature in the form of great floods. Yet, through it all, his indomitable spirit and innate wisdom guided Pahang towards stability and prosperity.

Beyond his duties as a ruler, Sultan Abu Bakar was a man of diverse passions. His love for sports and his affinity for horses were well-known, endearing him even more to his people and adding layers to his legacy.

Today, through thorough research and first-hand interviews, we look back on his remarkable life and legacy, to find a tapestry of inspiration woven through the fabric of time. Sultan Abu Bakar's unique leadership brand transcends eras, offering a timeless example of service, dedication, and love for one's land.

May Sultan Abu Bakar's legacy continue to inspire and guide us, just as his spirit continues to watch over the land he loved so dearly.



ISBN 978-629-7654-06-5



9 786297 654065