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**KUCHING:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) has come up with a biography of another prominent local leader and fighter, Datuk Seri Edmund Langgu Saga.

The book, co-authored by two lecturers, Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat and Prof Dr Spencer Empading Sanggin of the Faculty of Social Sciences, gives a detail account of Langgu's struggle and involvements in many fields including social, cultural and political struggles through SNAP, PBDS and Barisan Nasional until his retirement from politics.

Senior Minister Tan Sri William Mawan launched the book at the Banquet Hall, DeTAR Putra, Unimas in Samarahan yesterday.

Mawan, who is Social Development Minister, said the state government really appreciated Unimas' initiative to come up with a project to write about prominent local figures in Sarawak.

"I'm confident that this project will receive strong support from the people from all over the country.

"Moreover, the biography of our local figures could be used as public reference," he said.

Earlier, Unimas vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ad Hamid said Unimas' biography

writing project had begun with the biography of Datuk Seri Tra Zehnder in 2010. He said its second biography discussed in detail the tough lives Langgu went through during the Brooke rule, the Japanese Occupation from 1941-1945 and the colonial rule from 1945 to 1963.

The book also describes succinctly the schooling life that Langgu experienced during his childhood days at St Augustine's School in Betong where he had to walk for three days from his longhouse in Saratok to reach the school in Betong.

In politics, Langgu had been in both sides of the political divide. He was at one time SNAP's secretary general. In 1975, he was the Opposition leader in the Dewan Rakyat, but in 1976 when SNAP joined Barisan he was appointed as Agriculture Deputy Minister.

Langgu had also held many posts such as Brooke Dockyard board member and Malaysian Pepper marketing Board chairman.

In 1987, he joined the Kumpulan Maju during the Ming Court crisis. After his retirement from active politics, Langgu devoted much of his time to promoting the Iban language and culture through his active involvement in the Tun Jugah Foundation.