

# Launching of *Life in the Malay Kampongs of Kuching* tomorrow

KUCHING: A book entitled *Life in the Malay kampongs of Kuching, fifty years ago* will be launched tomorrow at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) near here.

Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Sri Adenan Haji Satem and Unimas Vice Chancellor Prof. Yusof Hadi will jointly launch the book in the Senate Room at 2pm.

The book was written by Tan Sri Abdullah Salleh and the late Ahmad Zainal Abidin back in

1953, while they were still undergraduates of Universiti Malaya, which was then located in Singapore.

Abdullah will be present for the ceremony.

*Life in the Malay Kampongs of Kuching* richly portrays the daily life of Malay communities across river in Kuching - stretching from Kampung Tupong through to Kampung Bintawa.

It took the authors just over three months to compile the rich details - details that are now lost in

the changes that have taken place in the subsequent 50 years.

This is the first monograph of the Nusantara Studies Programme, a programme that focuses on the coastal communities of Borneo/Kalimantan in the context of the broader socio-economic changes taking place in the region.

*Life in the Malay Kampongs of Kuching* will be on sale at bookstores for RM25 each, or may be ordered through the Institute of East Asian Studies, Unimas.

Abdullah Salleh held a number of key positions in the government of Malaysia, including that of Private Secretary to Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman.

In 1969, he was seconded to establish Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), was registrar until 1972, and appointed Chairman of the University Council in 1975.

From 1976 to 1978, he was Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia, and Head of

the Civil Service.

He retired from government service at the end of 1978 to become the Chairman/President and CEO of Petronas through to 1988.

Subsequently he served as Chairman of the Tun Razak Foundation, and Pro-Chancellor of UKM from 1987 until the present time.

Meanwhile, the late Ahmad Zainal Abidin after further studies at the London School of Economics, entered the Malayan

Civil Service, transferring to the new Foreign Service of the Federation of Malaya soon after independence.

He represented Malaysia in London, Paris, Hanoi, Rabat, and Moscow, and was Ambassador to Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey in 1971 to 1972, before his premature demise.

The uncle of Ahmad Zainal Abidin was none other than the famous "Zaaba", Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad, known throughout the

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