

INSTALLATION OF NANING CHIEF.

Footage: 410 - mate, edited fine grain dupe pos.

The 18th territorial chief of the Naning tribes in the settlement of Malacca was formally installed on August 17th at Simpang Ampat. The Naning territory forms one third of Malacca and its tribes number 70,000 people.

The ancient title of "Dato Naning" dates back to the middle of the 17th century. The present holder is the first Dato Naning to sit in the Malacca Settlement Council. He is also an ex-police officer.

The ceremony began at 8.55 a.m. when the Dato, accompanied by tribal chieftans and court officials, left his residence for the installation ceremony at the foot of a hill about 2½ miles away, on a site where all previous Dato Naning were installed. He was elected at the end of 1951. The colourful ceremony lasted four hours.

Film Content:

- (a) The Dato Naning and his retinue passing the roofless mosque (seen in left b.g. behind tent) to climb up
- (b) Execution Hill to offer prayers.
- (c) The Dato praying over burning incense, seeking guidance from his ancestors.
- (d) Nine gun salute.
- (e) The Dato leaves the Hill for the ceremonial bath called the Bersiram near a well at the foot of the hill.
- (f) The ceremonial bath in a yellow cloth-covered enclosure. An official pours holy water over the Dato.
- (g) The Dato carried in state by tribal chieftans to the nearby roofless mosque (Masjid Taboh) where
- (h) His relatives, tribal leaders and their womenfolk wait to show their loyalty. Without this homage he could not have been considered as the paramount chief of the Naning tribes.

28th August, 1953.

Extract from "SUNDAY STANDARD" (Malaya) dated 2nd August, 1953.

Nanings Instal Chief, August 17th.

Malacca, Sat. There will be a tremendous gathering of the Naning clan in Simpang Ampat, 20 miles from town on the Aler Gajah/Kendong Road, on August 17, 1953, when Settlement Councillor, Dato Mohamed Shah bin Mohamed Said is installed its chieftain, the 18th Dato Naning.

The Nanings, a sept of four suku or branches number about 70,000 observing a matriarchal law of succession whereby land belonging to one suku can only be transferred to the women of that suku. Twenty-two of the 31 Aler Gajah mukims and three Jasin mukims comprise what one might be called the Naning territory. As a sept the Nanings were in existence before the Dutch occupation in the latter part of the 17th and the 18th centuries. The Naning Wars over a hundred years ago put them at arm's length with the Government but the recognition of the chieftans was gradually favoured by the Settlement Government in the 1920's.

Government Allowance: The holder of the office of Dato Naning now gets a house and an allowance from the Government.

On the installation day, Dato Mohamed Shah will proceed to Masjid Taboh, an uncompleted mosque on a site where all the previous Dato Naning have been installed before him at nine o'clock in the morning from his house at Simpang Ampat.

Before entering the precincts of the masjid, Dato Mohamed Shah will go up Bukit Penyalang or Execution Hill (all executions by the sept were carried out on this hill before) opposite the masjid and offer the usual incense.

After the offering up Execution Hill, the Dato will bathe at the historic well near the masjid and after donning his ceremonial robes will enter the rafterless masjid for the ceremony.