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Sabah Travel & Leisure Guide

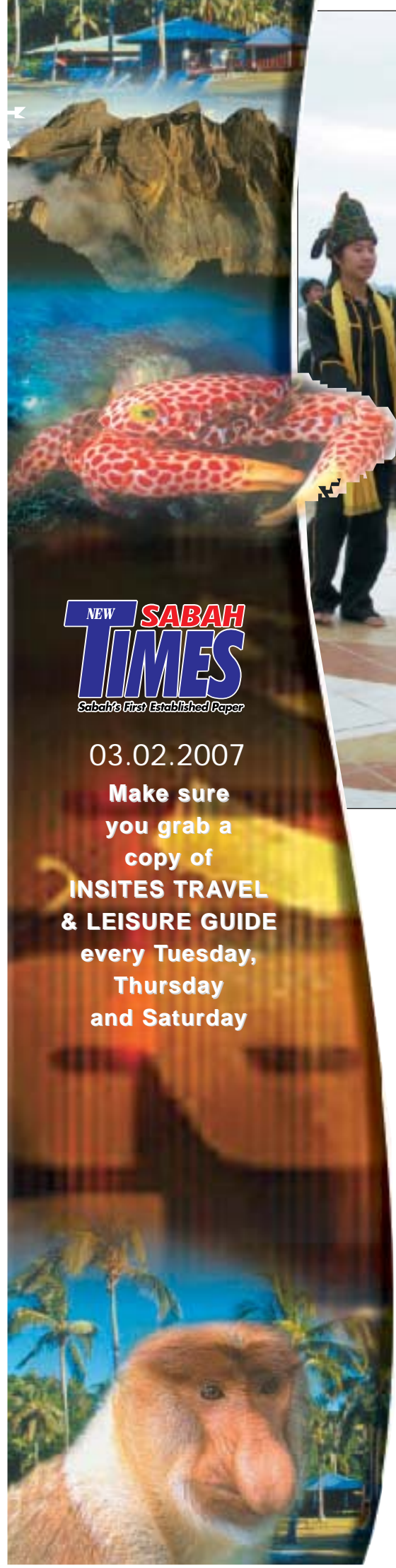
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GUNTER'S

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03.02.2007

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Kadazan Papar dancers perform for the audience



Daling Daling dancers show their moves

By ANNA VIVIENNE

City Day DO

Kota Kinabalu,, the State Capital of Sabah turned seven yesterday. The day was celebrated with pomp and splendour. The celebration was started as early as Feb 1, when a grand parade was held. There were floats and many interesting as well as colourful vessels that wowed the crowds. The parade went from the bus terminal right down to Jesselton Point.

Before that Jesselton Point was a hubbub of activities when the Lord Mayor Datuk Illiyas Ibrahim held a reception for tourists who were in Kota Kinabalu that day. Tourists who were attended nclude those from Korea as well as cultural groups from Indonesia, Philippines, Kuching Sarawak and Australia as well as South Africa.

The tourists were entertained with music, songs and dances from local cultural troupes. Dances include those from Kadazandusun Papar and Daling Daling. A local singer Atama also belted out a hip hop version of Daling Daling.

Briefly on Kota Kinabalu, it was formerly known as Jesselton and is situated on the coast and inland area of the land. It is administered by Kota Kinabalu City Hall.

The dawn of its history can be traced back to the late 1800s when the British North Borneo Company began to establish their standing in this part of the world. In 1882, they put their stake on Pulau Gaya, where a fishing village was located. The village belonged to the Bajaus. The British settlement was razed down by the Bajaus and they duly shifted to the mainland to another fishing village called Api Api.

Jesselton soon became a major trading post in North Borneo where rubber and jungle produce were sold.

The city was razed during the war and because of the high cost of rebuilding the company handed it over to the British Crown.

Jesselton was renamed Kota Kinabalu in 1968, about three years after the State joined the Federation of Malay States to from Malaysia, and received official city status from the Malaysian government on February 2, 2000.

More photos on pages II & III