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As I was passing...

Approaching Beaufort Township about 100 kilometres from Kota Kinabalu, I was welcomed with the effigies of Pomeloes. Great ones at the roundabout.

This town located in the Interior Division of Sabah, is a quiet town but once in a while the overflowing of Padas River send everybody, especially shopkeepers scurrying for safety.

Beaufort is a stop for the North Borneo Railway operated by Sutera Harbour Resort. The railway station in Beaufort dates from 1905. The normal daily service is operated by the Sabah State Railway Department.

Beaufort is normally visited by tourists for the white-water rafting through the nearby Padas Gorge on the Padas River.

The open-air market, locally known as Tamu is held weekly on every Friday evening till Saturday afternoon. Local produce such as fresh fruits, vegetable, fresh meat and live poultry are sold.

The central market is also a very interesting place to visit. On one side of the market are people selling vegetables and fruits including Pomeloes, while the other side two rows of stalls sell edibles such as cakes and pre-fried noodles. Then, the next row is the trinket stalls. You can actually pick a pair of earring while munching on a 'pisang goreng'!

Beaufort is actually an interesting town and has a lot of potential as a tourist destination. One of the curiosities there is the fact that the shops used to be built on stilts. They are however slowly 'dying out' as modern concrete buildings are built.

During the fruit season the King of Fruits, Durians are available there at low prices. Pomeloes too... there seem to be plenty of these fruits on sale. Perhaps that's why they have the effigies of the fruits at the roundabout.

However the people especially those working in restaurants, eateries and souvenir centres have to change their attitude and be a little bit more customers friendly.

If you are on your way south of Sabah, Beaufort is the best place to stop and have lunch before continuing your journey.



By ANNA VIVIENNE

