



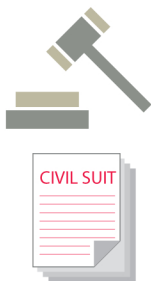
In 1936, Sultan Jamalul Kiram II died. Having no children of his own, his will left three adopted daughters and a brother as heirs.



Dayang Dayang Hadji Piandao, Tarhata Kiram, Sakinurin (Emmy) Kiram, and Datu Raja Muda Mawallil Wasit.



According to a Time Magazine article dated June 29, 1936 , after the Sultan’s death, “Dayang Dayang began to quarrel over... who was to succeed Kiram.”



In 1937, she went to court in Borneo to file a civil suit for the purpose of collecting the money payable to the heirs of the Sultan of Sulu.



However, in the same year (1936) Raja Muda Wasit succeeded in being elected Sultan of Sulu, but died before he was crowned.

#### NEWS

An article in the Sunday Times of Malaya dated May 9, 1937 reports that a decision was handed down granting Dayang Dayang the pension due the late Sultan Jamalul Kiram II by the British North Borneo government. The pension was stopped “when the Philippine Government refused to recognize the Sultanate of Sulu and when Dayang Dayang contested the rights of the late Rajamuda Mawalil Wasit to the sultanate.”



She brought with her a will saying that the Borneo pension was to be divided among only four persons, namely Dayang Dayang Hadji Piandao, Tarhata Kiram, Sakinurin Kiram and Raja Muda Mawallil Kiram Wasit.

This will was not recognized by the North Borneo court.



The High Court of the State of North Borneo, based on a British consul report, erroneously asserted that the Philippine Government abolished the sultanate.

On December 13, 1939, the Macaskie Declaration by the High Court of the State of North Borneo in Civil Suit No. 169/39 ruled that the plaintiffs in the claim were heirs of the Sultanate of Sulu and were entitled to “cession monies” from the North Borneo government. The nine heirs were identified:

- Dayang Dayang Haji Piandao
- Putli Tarhata Kiram
- Putli Sakinurin Kiram
- Mora Napsa
- Esmail Kiram
- Punjungan Kiram
- Mariam Kiram
- Rada Kiram
- Putli Jahara Kiram



Meanwhile, two rival factions claimed the sultanate from 1937-1950.

The first faction was led by Dayang Dayang, who succeeded in elevating her husband to the throne, with the title Sultan Ombra Amilbangsa. She also succeeded in persuading Esmail Kiram to temporarily give up his claim to the sultanate and become Crown Prince to her husband.

The other faction was formed when other datus elected Sultan Jainal Aberin, a descendant of Sultan Shakirul Lah. He appointed his brother Datu Buyungan (Tarhata Kiram’s husband) as Crown Prince.



Eventually, the Crown Prince and son of Sultan Wasit, Raja Muda Esmail Kiram I ascended the throne and reigned from 1950-1974.

Initially, Esmail Kiram I named his brother, Datu Raja Muda Punjungan Kiram, Crown Prince. At a later date, Esmail reversed his decision and named his son, Raja Muda Mahakutta Kiram, Crown Prince instead. Upon the death of Sultan Esmail Kiram I in 1974, Mahakutta Kiram was named sultan with the consent of the Ruma Bachara. President Marcos formally recognized him as new Sultan of Sulu through Memorandum Order 427 and Executive Order 429. Sultan Mahakutta Kiram died in 1986.



Since his death, it has been unclear who the successor to the throne is. Today, there are at least four claimants to the throne. According to President of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy, Ms. Amina Rasul, “there are over 10 who are claiming the Sultanship,” which includes Jamalul Kiram III (son of former Crown Prince Raja Muda Punjungan Kiram), Muhammad Fuad Kiram (brother of Sultan Mahakutta Kiram) and Raja Muda Muedzul Lail Tan Kiram (son and Crown Prince of Sultan Mahakutta Kiram).

Other influential figures are related to heirs of the Sultanate, including Ms. Rasul’s father, the late Ambassador Abraham Rasul (Wazir or Prime Minister to Sultans Esmail Kiram I and Mahakutta Kiram), and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Chairman Nur Misuari’s wives, Desdemona and Ruayda.