

## REPORT

### **"Preserving the Legacy of Datu Ranga (Prime Minister) Abdul Majid Daeng Matutu, The Last Prime Minister of the Sumbawa Sultanate in Indonesia"**

By Indonesia Hidden Heritage Creative Hub x Museum Bala Datu Ranga

#### **I. Introduction**

In the heart of Sumbawa Besar City, Sumbawa Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, still stands a wooden house with distinctive Sumbawa architecture known as Bala Datu Ranga. This house belonged to the last Prime Minister of the Sumbawa Sultanate, Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu. Bala Datu Ranga was built in 1886 as the second largest wooden house after the Dalam Loka Palace. Bala Datu Ranga means the residence of the Datu Ranga, the title for the Prime Minister. For more than a century, Bala Datu Ranga has stood firm in its original form, supported by 30 main wooden pillars.

For over a decade, Bala Datu Ranga has played an important role in preserving wooden architecture in Sumbawa Regency, as only two wooden cultural heritage buildings from the Sultanate remain today: the Dalam Loka Palace and Bala Datu Ranga. From the Sultanate era until now, Bala Datu Ranga has been a center of community activity, a place where the collective memory of the city is preserved and remembered.

Beyond the house itself, Datu Ranga Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu was a key figure in Sumbawa's local history. In the final years of the Sultanate, around 1950, he and Sultan Muhammad Kaharuddin III of Sumbawa became pivotal figures during the transition period that led to the Sultanate's integration into the Republic of Indonesia. His contributions and leadership are the focus of the Bala Datu Ranga Museum, which seeks to collect and document his legacy in museum narratives.

Since 2022, the historic Bala Datu Ranga house has been transformed into a museum dedicated to commemorating, reconstructing, and reorganizing the legacy of Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu—his ideas, values, memorabilia, and heirlooms as the last Prime Minister of the Sumbawa Sultanate. However, this effort requires support to strengthen the physical infrastructure of the house, which has begun to deteriorate, and to gather and disseminate knowledge about his role and legacy so that younger generations, not only in Sumbawa but across Indonesia, can recognize his importance.

Furthermore, the Bala Datu Ranga Museum has been officially recognized by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Indonesia and registered nationally in the National Museum Database as one of the museums in West Nusa Tenggara Province. This recognition strengthens the existence of the residence of the last Prime Minister of the Sumbawa Sultanate, which has now been designated as a Cultural Heritage Building and Museum Bala Datu Ranga.

## **II. Conducted Activities**

The series of activities under "Preserving the Legacy of Datu Ranga (Prime Minister) Abdul Majid Daeng Matutu, The Last Prime Minister of the Sumbawa Sultanate in Indonesia" were carried out from May to October 2025, as follows:

1. Collection of documentation and photographs related to compiling data on Datu Ranga Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu (May – June 2025)
2. Drafting of the book "The Last Prime Minister of Sumbawa" (July – August 2025)
3. Book writing consultation with Indonesia Hidden Heritage Creative Hub (August 2025)
4. Revision and editing of the book draft together with Indonesia Hidden Heritage Creative Hub (September – October 2025)
5. Launching of the book "The Last Prime Minister of Sumbawa" and a mini tour of the historic Bala Datu Ranga Museum – October 19, 2025.

### **"The Last Prime Minister of Sumbawa" Book Launching**

The book launching attended by 92 participants, consisting of university students, government officials, community leaders, and cultural figures who contributed diverse perspectives and insights to the event.

#### *Itinerary/ Rundown*

- 08.00 -08.45 : Registration
- 08.45 -09.00 : Opening by MC
- 09.00 -09.30 : Opening Remarks
- 09.30 -10.00 : Museum Bala Datu Ranga Tour
- 10.00 -11.00 : Soft Launching buku "The Last Prime Minister of Sumbawa" Datu Ranga Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu
- 11.00 -11.20 : Q&A Session
- 11.20 -11.30 : Closing by MC

## **III. Sources of Fund**

This activity was partially funded by a special grant from ICOM DEMHIST, of which the Bala Datu Ranga Museum is a registered member. The grant greatly supported the museum in collecting archival materials, photographs, data, and collections closely related to the story of Datu Ranga Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu. This funding served as seed capital for the project of gathering collections and collective memory based on his legacy, which is expected to have a significant impact on cultural preservation and the development of collective memory in Sumbawa Regency.

#### **IV. Goals Achieved**

- **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** Bala Datu Ranga Museum, the historic residence of the last Prime Minister of the Sumbawa Sultanate, has been strengthened in its role as both a cultural heritage site and a museum recognized nationally by the Ministry of Culture of Indonesia.
- **Documentation and Archival Development:** A comprehensive collection of photographs, archival materials, and memorabilia related to Abdul Majid Daeng Matutu was gathered gradually. It is to ensuring that his legacy is preserved for future generations.
- **Knowledge Production:** The drafting, consultation, and publication of the book “The Last Prime Minister of Sumbawa” provided a structured narrative that reconstructs and disseminates the historical significance of Abdul Majid Daeng Matutu. This book has been published in Indonesian language.
- **Community Engagement:** Through the book launch and mini-tour of Bala Datu Ranga, the program fostered public participation and strengthened collective memory, especially among younger generations in Sumbawa.
- **International Collaboration:** With the support of ICOM DEMHIST special grant and partnership with Indonesian Hidden Heritage Creative Hub, the program is connected local heritage preservation efforts to global museum and heritage networks.
- **Educational Impact:** The museum now serves as a living classroom, offering storytelling, exhibitions, and cultural dialogue that highlight leadership values, historical transitions, and the integration of Sumbawa Sultanate into the Republic of Indonesia.

## DOKUMENTATION



*The collection of documentation and photographs related to compiling data on Datu Ranga Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu (May – June 2025)*



Book Launching "The Last Prime Minister of Sumbawa"  
October 19, 2025



*Book Launching "The Last Prime Minister of Sumbawa"  
October 19, 2025*



*A mini tour of the historic Bala Datu Ranga Museum – October 19, 2025.*

*Datu Ranga Abdul Madjid Daeng  
Matutu: Perdana Menteri Terakhir  
Kesultanan Sumbawa*

Ia bukan sekadar tokoh sejarah—ia adalah penutup sebuah bab yang mengawali sebuah era baru, namun nyaris tak lagi terbaca dan terlupakan oleh kecepatan laju zaman.

Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu, sang perdana menteri terakhir Kesultanan Sumbawa, berdiri di antara dua dunia: tradisi yang mulai meredup dan modernitas yang belum sepenuhnya menjanjikan. Dalam bayang-bayang istana yang perlahan senyap, ia memikul mandat terakhir, menyulam diplomasi, kehormatan, dan kesetiaan dalam masa transisi yang genting.

Melalui arsip, narasi lisan, dan jejak visual yang nyaris hilang, Penulis yang juga merupakan cucu dari Sang Perdana Menteri, mengajak pembaca menyelami sosok yang tak banyak disebut, namun menyimpan kunci pemahaman tentang bagaimana sebuah kesultanan memilih untuk merunduk, bukan runtuh.

Sebuah catatan pembuka tentang kekuasaan, keheningan, dan warisan yang menunggu untuk ditemukan kembali.

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DEMIST



THE LAST PRIME MINISTER  
OF SUMBAWA

YULI ANDARI MERDIKANIINGTYAS



Datu Ranga Abdul Madjid Daeng Matutu: Kesetiaan,  
Kebijaksanaan, Cinta dan Warisan Yang Nyaris  
Terlupakan

<https://bit.ly/BalaDatuRanga>