

INTRODUCTION

Minangkabau, the homeland of the Minangkabau people, is situated in the central part of Sumatra, the major part of which now forms the Province of West Sumatra. It is rich with eternally green heavily forested mountains, in fact a ravishing equatorial region with cool enchanting highlands, clear blue lakes, terraced rice-fields on the hill slopes, colourful layered great canyons and rushing waterfall.

The equator runs over the region through Bonjol - a village that preserves a famous history of heroism in the struggle against the dutch colonialism under Tuanku Imam Bonjol.

Padang is the capital of the Province of West Sumatra, better known as the 'Land of the Minangkabau'. Most of the government offices are found in Padang. The governor's office - constructed in a style of applied Minangkabau architecture - is located on Jalan Sudirman. The territorial office of the Department of Education and Culture is situated on Jalan Sudirman.

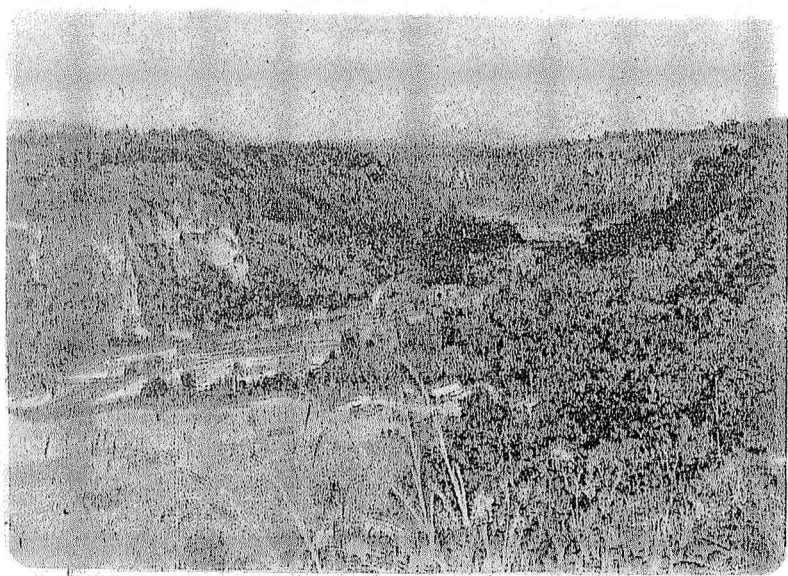
Padang is the center of commercial activities, education an regional administration. The seaport Teluk Bayur and the air port Tabing are both situated at the outskirts.

About 92 km to the north up in the highlands is Bukittinggi, the loveliest town in West Sumatra, where are found the famous Ngarai Sianok (Sianok Canyon), an attractive scenic spot at the edge of the town, the art museum, the "Fort de Kock" (fortress of Mr. de Kock), as its name suggests - a dutch fortification during the early colonial times, the zoological garden with its impressive cultural museum "Puti Bungsu," the building of which is in true Minangkabau style, and the tower

clock - the Big Ben of Bukittinggi. The town Bukittinggi itself constitutes a very nice panorama.

It has a pleasant climate and relaxing atmosphere.

The population is friendly and hospitable.



NGARAI SIANOK
A Welknown Valley attracts
Lost of Tourists from Home and Abroad
All the Year. Arround