

HISTORY OF TAMU TOWNSHIP SINCE 1948

Ph.D (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

Tamu Township has been a famous area since the time of Myanmar monarchs when Bagan era rose. The area became a vassal one. In the earlier period, the area was known as Kabaw Chaung alias Kabaw Valley. Thaugthut the First, Khampat etc., were the well known areas in Kabaw valley. In the era of Konbaung dynasty Tamu Township of the valley was integrated into Mawriya Region. At that time Khampat was the center of Tamu Township. It was first ruled by Sawbwas and later by Myo Thugyis or Myo Wuns. Tamu at that time was just a big village under the jurisdiction of Khampat.

Tamu, being a village adjacent to Manipur, was set up as a fort, and from such status, it gradually developed into that of a township. During the conflicts arising out of the quarrels between Myanmar and Manipur, the role of the area became important and it itself suffered much from such situations. The people of Tamu Township or Kabaw Area had to serve in the Myanmar army and collect food for it whenever the army marched to Manipur. After the First Anglo-Myanmar War, Kabaw area fell into the hands of Manipur. Myanmar King therefore tried to regain the area by all means. After a considerable period it was transferred back to Myanmar, but, due to that, there occurred many difficulties in marking border line. As a result there still do not stand border landmarks. In the early period of colonial time, Tamu was upgraded to the level of a town and it became the center of the whole Kabaw area. Then, it became a township. Throughout the colonial days as well as after independence, Tamu at onetime became a sub-division and at another merely a township under Mawlaik or Kalay districts. During World War II,

Tamu was ridden with the sufferings of warfares. Most of its important biggest buildings were flattened. Only after the independence could it rebuild offices and dwellings as well. In fact, it was unable to rehabilitate the area rapidly, instead, just slowly. Tamu, from the very early times, have been settled in by various nationalities such as Bamahs, Chins, Shans etc. On seeing its origin and historical development, the Union Government installed Kabaw Area Development Work Organs so that grouped villages, cultivable lands and dams and drainages were set up, supported or constructed with the special fund for the whole Kabaw area including Tamu Township. Because of Tamu's agricultural successes due to its plain land and abundant water resources of rivers and creeks in addition to its being a border town with considerable volume of trade with the neighbouring country, the township is a much promising one for its economic growth in the near future.

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