



A STUDY OF COMPARISON MEDIA COVERAGE BETWEEN MAINSTREAM NEWS
WEBSITE THE STAR AND ALTERNATIVE NEWS WEBSITE THE MALAYSIAN INSIDER
ON INDIGEOUS GROUP ISSUE IN 2010

LOH CHYE MOI

A RESEARCH PROJECT
SUBMITTED IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATION (HONS) JOURNALISM
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

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LOH CHYE MOI

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APPROVAL FORM

The research paper with title A study of comparison media coverage between mainstream news website The Star and alternative news website The Malaysian Insider on indigenous group issue in 2010, prepared and submitted by Loh Chye Moi in partial fulfillment required for Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Journalism, is hereby accepted.

Supervisor

Mr Afi Roshezry

Date: _____

ABSTRACT

This study intends to find out the difference of media coverage between The Star as mainstream news website and The Malaysian Insider, alternative news website on problems of indigenous groups in Malaysia. The study of different coverage on indigenous group can use to find out the value of social responsibility of these media in reporting the minority groups in Malaysia. The researcher used both content analysis and survey to study the research question and successful to found out the answer. The content analysis carries out by studying the news coverage on indigenous groups in Malaysia on both media for first half year of 2010. The results indicated that The Star has higher coverage in reporting indigenous groups' issues as compare to The Malaysian Insider. However, The Star news articles seems to be less comprehensive as compare to the news articles reported in The Malaysian Insider. The survey also found out that majority of respondents lack of knowledge about the indigenous groups in Malaysia and results indicates that The Star plays bigger role and more effective in instilling understand on this indigenous groups issue as compare to alternative news website, The Malaysian Insider.

DECLARATION

I declare the material generated in this paper is the end result of my own work. The acknowledgement had been given references to all sources whether in printed, electronic and personal form.

The word count of this paper is 10, 875 words.

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Media plays a role in educate, teach and provide information to the public. Malaysia is a pluralism society where it comprises different races, where Malay, Chinese, Indian are three dominant races. Each race owns different cultures, believes and values. The total population in Malaysia on 2009 is 28.3 million and indigenous group in Malaysia is comprises of 11.8 percent of the whole population. As compare to other minority races, such as Malay and Chinese, the indigenous groups is the smallest population among the races and follow by Indian, which is only 7.7 percent. (Background note: Malaysia, 2010).

In pluralism society like Malaysia, media has significant role to give balance reporting to all groups of people, in order to give these minority groups to have fair representatives in media coverage. As indigenous group in Malaysia is minority, people are less understanding about this group of people, media has a social responsibility in news coverage in order to let the public more understanding indigenous group to instill pluralism and harmony in society.

Basically, there are mainstream and alternative media in Malaysia. As each media has different style of reporting, there may be a difference between mainstream media and alternative media on the coverage on indigenous group in Malaysia. Minority group should not be marginalized in society as they are part of Malaysians. The land title issue “places aboriginal people an important role and powerful voice” in the society. Their voice had a “right to be heard and respected”. (Telling both stories: indigenous Australia and the media, 1994).

Objective of study

The objective of this study is to find out the difference of news coverage on indigenous group between mainstream media and alternative media. The analysis of the coverage on these different types of media can help to evaluate reporting style of the media and study the extent of

balance reporting and social responsibility hold by these two media in pluralism society in Malaysia. The mainstream media chosen in this study is The Star while alternative media, The Malaysian Insider, has been chosen. Since The Star news online is the complementary version of the printed form, the researcher chosen to compare the mainstream news website as the style of reporting in news website in space and capacity are different from printed form newspaper where the space is limited. The purpose of comparing two news website rather comparing between printed and online form is to make comparison more relevant and specific.

The researcher would focuses on news coverage of religious and land issues of indigenous group in newspaper to study. Only two aspects are chosen in order to make study more specific. Besides, religious and land issues also remain the significant concerns in these groups. All the news coverage on indigenous group by both media on January 2010 until June 2010 will be listed out to analysis. Another objective of this study is also to find out whether the coverage of indigenous group on these two media would affect the interest and understand on indigenous group among the public.

Significance of study

The media has a role in reporting news regardless all races, social class and minority group in Malaysia. Media has a role to give fair representatives to all groups in the society. The indigenous group in Malaysia, a small population in Malaysia, their rights and voice need to be heard should be given fair by the media. The mainstream and alternative media may have different values of coverage in this issue. By examine the news coverage between mainstream and alternative media on indigenous group, it can used to analysis the social responsibility and balance reporting values hold by these media. For example, low coverage of this issue gives an indication of the extent of social responsibility owned by the particular media. This research is an

important basis to find out existence of media in providing understanding among minority groups in Malaysia, and throughout this study, it can find out how the coverage benefits to cultivate understanding and harmony for the public.

Research Question

Q1. What are the differences between news coverage on indigenous group in The Star newspaper and online news website, The Malaysian Insider on first half year of 2010? (The aspect of news coverage can use to analysis the social responsibility and balance reporting values hold by these media).

Problems of the statement

The media, sometimes provide what the readers' needs rather than tell the readers the things that they need to know. The media plays a role to promote understanding among different races in this pluralism society. Media should give balance coverage to the minority, especially the indigenous group. As indigenous group owns different languages, cultures and values, and problems in the daily lives, media should give balance coverage to them. The mainstream media which mainly control by government and alternative media free or less government control may have different types of coverage and reporting style on these groups. The difference coverage can be used to analysis the report between mainstream and alternative media.

Literature Review

The alternative media, The Malaysian Insider is a news website began at 25 February, 2008. It covers the issues of the day, politics, business, lifestyle, sports and entertainment. This news website aims in report "unvarnished take on events and personalities in Malaysia". Malaysian Insider is a bilingual news site popular in Malaysia. It has been consistently ranked as one of the top 100 most popular websites in the country with a strong following in Singapore.

(About us ,n.d.).

The mainstream media, The Star newspaper Malaysia is the leading English-language tabloid format newspaper in Malaysia which launching since 1971 at Penang. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, it is the largest in terms of circulation in Malaysia. It has a daily circulation of between 290,000 to 300,000. The Star is majority-owned by the Malaysian Chinese Association,^[1] the second-largest party in the ruling Barisan Nasional alliance. (Wong, 2001). The Star online news website launched in June 1995 and became the first Malaysian newspaper in launching online news version. (A brief story of The Star, n.d).

The idea of agenda setting involves using the news to influence the public regards as important to them to think about in society and politics. (Bennett, 2009). Media most of the time, tells readers what they want, but rather provide them what they need to know or educate them. In pluralism society like Malaysia, media plays as role to educate public to understand more about the minority group, indigenous group in Malaysia. This group of people should be getting attention from the media as they have the right to have fairly representative in media.

“Indigenous voices in media are critical to enable these groups to participate in public debates and influence government decisions that affect them. The destruction of their environment, infringements on their land rights, or transgressions of cultural norms are examples of these debates.” (Meier, 2008).

Definition of terms

There are some terms which used repetitively in this report. Below are the terms:
Indigenous: In more familiar, also call as Orang Asli (in Malay language).

Methodology

The researcher would use quantitative method, which both content analysis and survey

used to analysis the media coverage in both different types of media. All of the news articles on indigenous group reported on Malaysian Insider and The Star news website on January 2010 until June 2010 will be collected and grouped into data to analysis. The quantity of news coverage, content of the news stories and number of articles can be used to justify the comparison news coverage. Also, by study the style of reporting on both media, it can used to compare the balance reporting values on indigenous group hold by the mainstream news website and alternative news website. The survey done to study in order to evaluate the understanding of indigenous group through media and find out how media coverage and reporting style in affecting public's awareness, interest and understanding on this issue. Besides, the question of how public perceived media in reporting minority groups can be known.

Scope of study

This report aims to find out the reporting styles between mainstream and alternative news website, which is The Star and Malaysian Insider on indigenous group in Malaysia. The researcher would focuses on the news coverage by these media in analysis the style reporting of the media. As indigenous group in Malaysia are minority and the number of news coverage on this group can be identify on these two media to do comparison. In order to narrow down and specific the scope of study, this report will just focus on two major aspects of coverage faces by indigenous group, which are land issues and religious issues. Besides, the understanding of public towards this issue through media and how they perceived the role of media in reporting this issue will be studied in this report, too.

Conclusion

As Malaysian is a pluralism society, media' role, despite as a watch dog of the society, it plays a significant role in preserve the harmony and understanding among different races,

cultures and values in the society.

Both mainstream media and alternative media, should carry out their role to bring out more issues of the minority groups' voices to the public. Also, it is important to give critical coverage and balance reporting on this minority as they are also parts of Malaysians.

CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW

Indigenous group in Malaysia

“Orang Asli, or first people are the descendents of the earliest habitants who occupied the Malay peninsula before the establishment of the Malay kingdoms.” They stay at a specific geographical space, with owns cultures and identity. Orang Asli has been marginalized in the society “except when their land, labour, knowledge or especially their votes, mattered more to others”. (Nicholas, 2004).

In Peninsular Malaysia, there are 19 ethnic subgroups (refer appendix A). Although each ethnic groups has small number of people, Orang Asli are “not homogeneous”, each group having its own language and culture and, most importantly, perceiving itself as different from the others. (Nicholas, 2004.)

In Sarawak, the indigenous peoples in Sarawak make up around 50% of the state's population. In Sarawak, “indigenous peoples are also collectively referred to as Dayaks.” In Malaysian Constitution, these group (refer appendix B) “often lumped together under the general label as ‘Dayak’.”

In Sabah, the indigenous population in Sabah makes up approximately 60% of the state's population and the majority of them stay in the rural areas. There are more than 30 different indigenous groups in Sabah, including Kadazan, Dusun, Rungus, Murut, Sungai and Lundayeh. They speak more than 50 languages and 80 dialects. (Indigenous people in Malaysia, n.d.). “The largest ethnic group is the Dusun/Kadazan which comprise about one third of the population.”

The indigenous voices are significant in the media as it gives them to have a right to have a say and influence government policies that may have impact on them and thus media should gives their right to be heard. (Meier, 2008). “The destruction of their environment, infringements

on their land rights, or transgressions of cultural norms are examples of these debates”. The indigenous groups most of the time, are the “poorest and most marginalized of peoples in the country”, where the land issues always are “protracted issue owing to censorship by the mainstream media”. (Another case of self-censorship in Malaysia, 2010). “Orang Asli remains the most vulnerable and marginalized group when come to lands and resources issues. Their rights to the lands are a contestable issue that deserves attention.”

One of the indigenous communities, Penan in Sarawak has been suffering due to the timber companies to do logging activities in their home land and it has brought many problems to this marginalised community. The alleged sexuality violence has allegedly happen on this community’ women but the action taken is slowed. (Ding, 2010).

Penan is one of indigenous group in Sarawak. “A small number of the Penan community still lead a nomadic life, hunting and gathering, while the rest of the community has now either settled or is partially settled.”

Pluralism and multiculturalism

Pluralism, defines as a social organisation where “diversity of racial or religious or ethnic or cultural groups is tolerated”. Malaysia is a “land of diversity”, where it is not only comprises three dominant races which are Malay, Chinese and Indians but other minority groups as well. “The discussions forming of pluralistic society always concentrate on the main three races as these races play main role during British colonization but it does not mean to deny the significant role play by other races.” (Baharuddin, 2007, pg 29). The minority group refers to indigenous group or more familiar as Orang Asli. “The term minority has been applied to ethnically and racially defined people.” (Liebes, et al., 2008). Since Malaysia formed, “the country has been blessed with exposure of different cultural and religions.” Despite Malay embraces Islam as their

religion, Chinese and Indian has their Buddhism, Christian, or Hinduism as their religions. For most of the minority group such as aboriginal or Orang Asli, are still practicing their animism or paganism. (Balakrishnan, 2006).

Background of news website

The alternative media, The Malaysian Insider is an online news website began at 25 February, 2008. It produces various issues, include politics, business, lifestyle, daily issues, sports and entertainment. This news website aims in report “unvarnished take on events and personalities in Malaysia”. The Malaysian Insider is a bilingual news site popular in Malaysia. (About us, n.d). This news website gives chances to Malaysia to have their opinions and analysis as Malaysian Insider hope to get more valuable views from them. There are many independent news portals like The Malaysian Insider, such as Malaysiakini and Malaysia Today. “There are no clear statements of ownership for these sites, but many operate with apparently limited revenue and substantial overhead.” (Malaysia: Strategising for a sustainable future, 2010). Sreedhar Subramniam, a former chief operating officer of free-to-air Malaysian television channel ntv7, is the chief executive officer of the online news organization.

The mainstream media, The Star newspaper Malaysia is the leading English language tabloid format newspaper in Malaysia. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, it is the largest in terms of circulation in Malaysia. It has a daily circulation of between 290,000 to 300,000. *The Star* is majority-owned by MCA, the second-largest party in the ruling BN alliance. (Wong, 2001). The Star market its newspaper by name The People’s paper or the family’s paper. The Star printed newspaper has published since 1971 as a regional newspaper in Penang and transfer into national type newspaper in Kuala Lumpur. It was the first newspaper in tabloid in Malaysia and it success to achieve more selling units than New Straits Times which was already

139 years old in Malaysia. Also, “The Star was the first Malaysian newspaper to launch an edition on the World Wide Web.” The Star becomes the first Malaysian news website on June 23, 1995. (Malaysia Press, media, TV, radio, newspaper, 2010). The Star online news website launched in June 1995 and became the first Malaysian newspaper in launching online news version. (A brief story of The Star, n.d).

Mainstream and alternative media

According to the survey done by Merdeka Center for Opinion research on 2008, half of the respondent believing the mainstream media is still performing below the best ethical standards. This shows that the mainstream media is slightly lost the credibility. (Public critical of media content, want more independence, 2008).

“Malaysia’s aboriginal community is often unpresented in the mainstream media”. (Seneviratne, 2007, pg 105). Most of the mainstream media industries are owned directly or indirectly by the ruling parties or their allies. For instance, Media Prima which close link to United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) owns TV station as well as newspapers. These newspapers include New Straits Times, Malay Mail, Berita Harian and others. The political party in the ruling party, Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) owns The Star’s substantial shares, China Press and Utusan Melayu (M) group owns Utusan Malayu, Kosmo. Utusan Melayu Group also has close link with the political party, UMNO. (Anuar, 2005).

Oligopoly, can used to define the condition of media, especially the mainstream media in Malaysia. Oligopoly define as “few sellers selling homogenous products”. There are not limitation of number of sellers in oligopoly, but “two sellers are the limitations for oligopoly case.” (Dwivedi, 2002). For instance, Malaysia’s media which ownership can be define as oligopoly case, most of them are owned directly or indirectly by the ruling government, only few

of them are not under government. Oriental daily and Kwong Huang daily are the examples of mandarin newspaper where their ownership is not controlled under government.

“The close relationship between the state and the media signals state interference in the affairs of media industry.” Most democratic government in Asia has strict control on the media of the countries and rationalize it with the reason of stability of political and economic development. The examples of control include “restrictions on ownership, national security and sedition laws, and annual licensing requirements.” (Lamay, 2004).

Role of media in pluralism society

There is important for the newspaper organisation to act as independent role in producing news. This is because editorial independent of certain newspaper organisation will enable it produces political news, economic news, cultural, geographical as well as minorities. (Senevirathe & Muppidi, n.d.). In the aspect of minorities, independent reporting enables the media “to report national political, economic, cultural, and development issues incorporating the viewpoints of ethnic or religious minorities and indigenou or tribal people.”

The mainstream media, The Star newspaper which political party, MCA owns 41 percent shares in Star Publications, has power to control over editorial policy of the organisation. Whereas The Malaysian Insider, independent online news website do not own by political parties, producing news with more independent editorial policies and news angles as compare to the mainstream media, The Star. However, “both the media and civil society are forms of pressure from below that affect the decisions and activities of governments.” The strong relationship between state and mainstream media would threaten the media freedom and credibility of the media in producing the news. (Anuar, 2005).

Social responsibility

This theory emphasizes that the need for the press to provide objective and accurate news, media should build a great community by prioritizing cultural pluralism, “by becoming the voice of all people, not just elite group or groups that dominate the national, regional, or local culture in the past.” The basic principles of social responsibility theory are media should accept and fulfill obligations like practice professional of informativeness, accuracy, truth, objectivity and balance news to the society. Media should avoid producing any news that considered offense the minority groups. Most importantly, media should be pluralist and reflect the diversity in society. (Baran, 2009, pg 114).

One Malaysia concept

One Malaysia concept was launched by current Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on 5 April 2009. One Malaysia concept, based on the principle of “People first, Performance now”. Under this concept, assumes that everyone comes to define themselves as Malaysian, the action taken is based on the needs of all ethnic in the country. This concept states that the principle of fairness to all races. (One Malaysia, People First performing now, n.d.). According to Prime Minister, the concept would be implemented in an organised and systematic manner to ensure that no community was isolated from development of any kind. (Kala, 2009).

Agenda Setting

The idea of agenda setting involves using the news to influence the public regards as important to them to think about in society and politics. Media most of the time, tells readers what they want, but rather provide them what they need to know or educate them. (Bennett, 2009). In pluralism society like Malaysia, media plays as role to educate public to understand more about minority groups in Malaysia. This group of people should be getting attention from

the media as they have the right to have fairly representative in media.

“Newspaper provides a host of cues about the salient of the topics in the daily news.” The cues include lead story, headline and etc. News media play a critical role in shaping the importance of news issue in the mind of the readers. Media is able to grab public attention to the trivial issues by using agenda setting. “What we know about the world is largely based on what the media decide to tell us.” Public would know what journalists consider as important issues based on the total number of coverage on certain issues. (Mccomb, n.d.).

According to Spring (2002), “the gatekeepers, editors and managers as well as external influences such as non-media sources, government official and influential individuals may consider as the others aspect that contributed in setting agenda.”

Gatekeepers

According to Baran (2009), gatekeeper defines as “people who screen media messages and pass on those messages and help others share their views.” Journalist, editor in the newsroom or the public can be gatekeepers on any news and information. “Gatekeeping, seems unavoidable in journalism field. In any newspaper, magazine, or news broadcast, an editor judges which stories are appropriate, which sources are credible, which quotes are valuable, and so on.”

The development of internet technology with the news website has brought some changes of the function of gatekeeper. Gatekeepers, not solely screen the information and pass to the others to absorb the message, but it has becoming “more methodological and analytical”. It emphasises verification of facts and the reliability of sources. (Kendayl , 2001)

CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY

Quantitative research

The researcher would use quantitative method, which both content analysis and survey used to analysis the media coverage in online news media, which mainstream news website and alternative news website. Quantitative study emphasizes the study of “numbers, descriptive statistic, figures and illustrations to show the results of the study.” A result of quantitative research tends to easy to be generalized compare to qualitative research. This type of method is “dealing with anything that is measureable.” The sample used in quantitative tend to be larger than qualitative research. The generalization of the study easy to be made as the samples used must large in order to represent the whole population. (Moghaddam & Moballeghi, 2008).

Quantitative method produces non-bias result as the measurement of the result is based on numbers and figures counted. “Quantitative also involves several methods of data collection, such as internet surveys, mail surveys, and phone survey.” This method enables “greater precision in reporting results.” (Wimmer & Dominick, 2005, pg 50).

Content analysis

Content analysis is a “systematic procedure devised to examine the content of recorded information.” (ibid.). The text from the book or newspaper will be defined objectively through this method. The content analysis can use to differentiate the differences in various form of communication content, identify and examine the “existence of propaganda” of certain communication.(Content Analysis, n.d.). In this study, it is suitable to study and examine the difference of news coverage of different reporting style of various newspapers. Content analysis is also a method carries in “systematic, objective, and quantitative”.

According to Wimmer & Dominick (2006), content analysis is a useful tool to “comparing the media content to the real world.” Besides, the improvement of this method in

research has made this method “focused on exploring the media image of certain minority.” (ibid.). It means that this method is useful to study the way of different media in reporting or presenting the minority. In this case, it can be a useful tool to describe representation of indigenous group who is a minority group in Malaysia in both mainstream news website, The Star and alternative news media, The Malaysian Insider.

By the discovery of news coverage of media on indigenous group, it can be used to examine the values social responsibility and balance reporting owned by different types of media.

As content analysis is useful to study the media content, so it can discover the agenda setting by the media. “An analysis of relevant media content is necessary in order to determine the importance of news topic.”

Reliability

The concept of reliability is vital in ensuring the content analysis to be objective. The measurement and procedures of content analysis must be reliable in ensuring the objectivity. (Wimmer & Dominick, 2006, pg 165). Reliability defined as the extent of “a measuring procedure yields the same results on repeated trials”. (Neuendorf, 2002, pg 12). The degree of code agreed among the independent coders who “code on the same content by using the same coding instruments refers to intercoder reliability.”

According to Neuendorf (2002), to ensure the reliability of the research, there is a need to go to nine steps as listed below:

1. Theory and rationale
2. Conceptualization
3. Operationalization
4. Coding sheet

5. Sampling
6. Training and pilot reliability
7. Coding
8. Final reliability
9. Tabulation and reporting

Theory and Rationale

The type and aspect of the content of the study will be examined and the reason of these content chosen listed out, too. The study of difference news coverage of mainstream and alternative media on indigenous group can be known through analysis the content of the news. The research question is formed and the important for terms in the news will be chosen in coding sheets. This term is:

Orang Asli/ Indigenous group- first people are the descendents of the earliest habitants who occupied the Malay Peninsula before the establishment of the Malay kingdoms. There are various ethnic indigenous groups in Peninsula Malaysia as well as Sabah and Sarawak. This term is must be coded as the study is focuses on the comparison reporting of media on indigenous group. (Nicholas, 2004).

Despite of important of the headline, the variables such as issues covered and is coded to study the research question. Also, the types of length of the articles are coded into different categories. The types of lengths of the articles can gives indications of the comprehensive or simple types of news reporting made by these different media.

Conceptualization and operationalization

The content of indigenous group issues will be examining in the aspect of headline and

content and articles of the news issues.

1. **Headline** - the line on the top of the story which tells the readers what the story is about. (Rich, 2003, pg 37).
2. **Article**- Item specific at below will be coded and the content of article will be categorized into two types of issue covered.

Item code in the headline and articles as below:

Orang Asli/ Indigenous group- first people are the descendents of the earliest habitants who occupied the Malay Peninsula before the establishment of the Malay kingdoms. Orang Asli, is means indigenous group in Malay language. There are various ethnic indigenous group in Peninsula Malaysia as well as Sabah and Sarawak.

Issue covered categorized as two aspects:

1. Religious
2. Land issue

Besides, the length of the articles of the news reported also will be coded. The lengths of articles are categories into three sectors, which are short, medium and long. The types of articles are categories according to the total of paragraphs of the news articles.

The way of categories show as below:

Short: less than 10 paragraphs (<10 paragraphs)

Medium: 10 to 20 paragraphs (10- 20 paragraphs)

Long: More than 20 paragraphs (>20 paragraphs)

Coding Sheet

Coding means “placing a unit of analysis into a content category.” (Wimmer & Dominick,

2006, pg 162). For example, the term “Indigenous” coded to find out the coverage of media on indigenous group. The coding sheet is at appendix C.

Sampling

For find out the research question of this study, by using content analysis, the media coverage on indigenous group in major two aspect, religious and land issues, in both mainstream news website and alternative news website, which is The Star and The Malaysian Insider, respectively selected to analysis the content. The content of news for both media on the first half year of 2010 (January to June 2010), will be studied and analysis. The item coded in coding sheet will be counted and grouped into data and table to analysis. This period of the news article is selected because it is current news reporting of these media, (refer to the time of study carries out) on indigenous and it can give indication of current reporting style on this issue.

Meanwhile, only half of year newspaper is selected because due to limitation of time own by the researcher. There are total 44 articles of indigenous group in religious and land issue found on both media, where 28 in The Star and another 16 in The Malaysian Insider.

Besides content analysis, the survey to understand the interest and understanding of readers on indigenous group reported on these media will be carrying out, too. (Survey will be explained further in later part).

Training and pilot reliability

Training of the coders is important to decide the level of reliability in the research. In this research, the research would use two coders in coding the content of the study. Two coders would work together on the meaning of the item coded. Finally, two coders should come to an agreement of the item coded. The training must be provided to coder in order to “revise of definitions, clarify category boundaries and coding sheets to enable the coders be comfortable

with the material and procedure.” (Wimmer & Dominick, 2006, pg 162).

The researcher will be the first coder and the second coder will be Ng Hooi Sang, a student from UTAR, as well. She plays as a role to discuss about the definitions and meaning of the term that will be coded and finally two coders must come out with the agreement of the meaning of the code.

“Pilot study is done to check intercoder reliability. The researcher would use fresh coders to check the reliability who have “initial training to impart familiarity with the instruction and methods of the study.”

Final reliability

According to Wimmer & Dominick (2006), the intercoder reliability can be calculated by few methods. One of the methods to calculate the reliability by Holsti (1969) is

$$\text{Reliability} = \frac{2M}{N_1 + N_2}$$

M= number of coding decisions on which two coders agree.

N₁ and N₂ = total number of coding decisions by the first and second coder, respectively.

Disadvantages of Content Analysis

Content analysis only can answer ‘what’ of a study but not ‘why’ as based on the numerical results found in the result of the study, this type of research method may unable to further give explanation or motive of the report coverage. (Content analysis, n.d.).

The content analysis method is also ‘subject to increased error’, this is because when the researcher in selection of data need the interpretation of the text. In this way, it is to be said that it is “too liberally to draw meaningful inferences about the relationships and impacts implied in a

study.” (Content analysis, n.d.).

Also, content analysis may be very time consuming when comes to collection and analysis of a data and text for a period of time.

Survey

Survey is broadly used in media research area as because it is flexible. There are major two types of descriptive and analytical surveys. Descriptive surveys to “describe the current condition of documents and pictures.” It enables the study of what “exist in the moment”. Analytical survey attempts to “study and examine why the situation exists”. (Wimmer & Dominick, 2006, pg 179). The researcher would choose to use analytical survey in this study. As the research question aiming to find out the impact of different coverage on indigenous group, analytical survey can determine how the news coverage on media in affecting interest and understanding of respondent on indigenous group or to find out whether the difference of news coverage in promote the One Malaysia concept, harmony and understanding in this pluralism society like Malaysia. Besides, throughout the survey, it enables the researcher the different important role carry by different media.

As the result of survey enable to find out the “interrelationships among variables and to develop explanatory inferences” (ibid), the study of whether the coverage of media on indigenous group can affect the respondent to have or no interest in this minority group. The result from the survey can find out the importance of media in promoting understanding, and harmony in society. Besides, throughout the survey, it can found out whether the public understanding and aware of minority group in Malaysia.

Selection of sampling

The researcher may not be able to involve everyone in the survey, so the selection of

sample in the survey is important in order to make sure the survey carried out can be able to generate the whole population. There are two types of sampling, probability and non-probability sampling.

According to Wimmer & Dominick (2006), probability sampling is where every unit has a chance of being selected within the population, it follows “the mathematical guideline”. Non-probability sampling however did not follow mathematical guideline in selecting the sample. “The clear differences between these two samplings are sampling error will be able to find out for probability sampling but non-probability sampling does not.”

Probability sampling includes simple random, cluster, systematic and stratified random. Simple random, every unit in the population have equal chance of being selected as a sample. Each unit in population will be given a number, and this number will be randomly drawn to be selected as a sample. Cluster samplings, chose sample by divide them into small groups and categories.(Teh, 2009). Systematic sampling, sample is selected in every n unit. However, to ensure the accuracy of the sampling, the sampling frame which the name list of the whole population must be obtained. (Wimmer & Dominick, 2006, pg 95). Stratified sampling, “includes strata with sizes based on their proportions in the population.”

There are also four types of non-probability sampling, including convenient sampling, judgemental sampling, snowball sampling and quota sampling. Convenient sampling means getting the sample at the place and time convenient to the researcher. (Teh, 2009). Judgemental sampling, the sample only will be selected when it fulfills certain characteristics set by the researcher. These done in ensure the sample selected can be fulfilling the research’s objective of certain study. For instance, researcher who wants to analysis particular product or item by asking those users to do comparison would use this kind of sampling.

Snowball sampling, is also a convenient type of sampling where sampling is solely based on recommendations subjects. Quota sampling, selection of sampling based on certain percentage.

According to Wimmer & Dominick (2006), there are four factors to be considering the types of sampling to be used in a study. There four factors include purpose of study, cost versus value, time constraints and amount of acceptable error. If the purpose of the survey is purely aimed at study the relationship between variables but not to use in generalize the population, the non-probability sampling is suitable to use. Also, probability sampling tend to be more time consuming and costly to be carried out. Besides, non probability sample can be used if the amount of error is not the primary concern in the study.

The researcher decided to choose convenient sampling in non-probability sampling because due to times constraints and limitations of financial, the non-probability tends less time consuming and less cost than probability sampling. The convenient sampling in non-probability sample is chosen because as compare to judgemental sampling which tends to restrict the selection of sample, as it must select based on certain characteristic and tend to too subjective while quota sampling will bias which it also control by the characteristic. As the researcher is a student from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman(UTAR), the survey carry out in UTAR campus will be convenient for the researcher due to the times constraints.

The researcher would distribute 150 sets of questionnaire to the respondent. The target of respondent is the students and lecturers from UTAR. The self-administration question will be distribute to the students in UTAR, Kampar campus due to times constraints of researcher. The age range of the respondent targeted at 18 to 50 years old as the wide age range can find out the different age range of respondent's response generated in the survey.

As the respondents made up by students and lecturers, most of them who are educated people enable to answer the survey question about the reading behavior on mainstream and alternative media. The survey also use the results generated by respondent to analysis the media report style in affecting their knowledge on the particular issue. The 150 sets of questionnaire will be distributed equally to students and lecturers from different faculties of UTAR.

Questionnaire

In constructing the survey question, the researcher categorized the questionnaire in three parts, Part A, B and C. Total 18 questions in a set of survey. The question will asked in simple language and short to make it easy to understand and answer. Part A and B both are close ended question. It is to make the researcher be able to gather the data to generate the study result. Part A is demographic aspect, where the basic information of the respondent. The question to be asked in this part include age, gender, occupation and the place where the respondent from.

Part B, the question asked about the behavior and interest of respondent in reading newspaper in different issue will be asked. This part includes 12 questions. This is because through study the interest of the respondent and reason in affecting their interest in reading certain issues can be useful to examine the role and impact of different types of media in instilling the habit, interest and understanding of indigenous issue in Malaysia.

In Part C, only one question in open-ended form will be asked. This is the general question to enable the respondent to answer the question in more flexibility way. The respondent can give their opinion about the importance of media in affect their own interest and understanding in indigenous problems.

Conducting survey

Generally, there are two types of survey question, which is open ended and close ended.

Respondent need to generate their answer in open-ended question while close ended, in the opposite, required respondent to choose available answer from the choices provided. To generate the result of study in gathering data, researcher would choose to construct closer ended question form when constructing the question of survey.

The questionnaires are done on the respondents who are willing to take part in the survey and they answer in self-administrative.

The survey will be conducted on 24 January 2011 until 07 February 2011, the duration to conduct this survey is two weeks. The researcher has able to collect back 133 sets of questionnaire out of 150 sets of questionnaire that given out. These 133 sets of questionnaires will be grouped into data to further analysis in next chapter.

Advantages and disadvantages of survey

There are several advantages for conducting survey for this study, first, it is inexpensive to carry out survey. As researcher has flexibility to choose types of survey in the study, the researcher will be able to estimate the cost for the survey method.

Secondly, the using of survey method will enable ‘large amount of data to be collected.’ This is because researcher will be able to study different variable by designing different structure of survey question. (Wimmer & Dominick, 2006, pg 180).

Another benefit of conducting survey are standard questions asked in survey would make the “measurement more precise by enforcing uniform definition” to the respondent. (Advantages and disadvantages of survey method, n.d.)

Meanwhile, the question in standardized form would ‘force’ the respondent to answer the option which consider less appropriate to the respondent. Respondent do not have much flexibility in answer survey question, especially in close-ended question. Besides, “inappropriate

wording” in the design of question will confuse the respondent and create bias results. The selection of question must be careful in order to ensure the reliability of the result of the study.

(Wimmer & Dominick, 2006, pg 180).

CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Intercoder reliability

Intercoder reliability is important to ensure the reliability of a study. It used to measure whether the term coded by all coders are in the same meaning. The higher the level of agreement between the coders, the higher reliability of the study and it tends to gain high percentage of intercoder realibility.

Holsti(1969) intercoder reliability is one of the formulae to find out the reliability of the study.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Intercoder reliability} &= \frac{2M}{N_1 + N_2} \\
 &= \frac{2(42)}{44+44} \\
 &= \frac{84}{88} \\
 &= 0.955 \\
 &= 95.5\%
 \end{aligned}$$

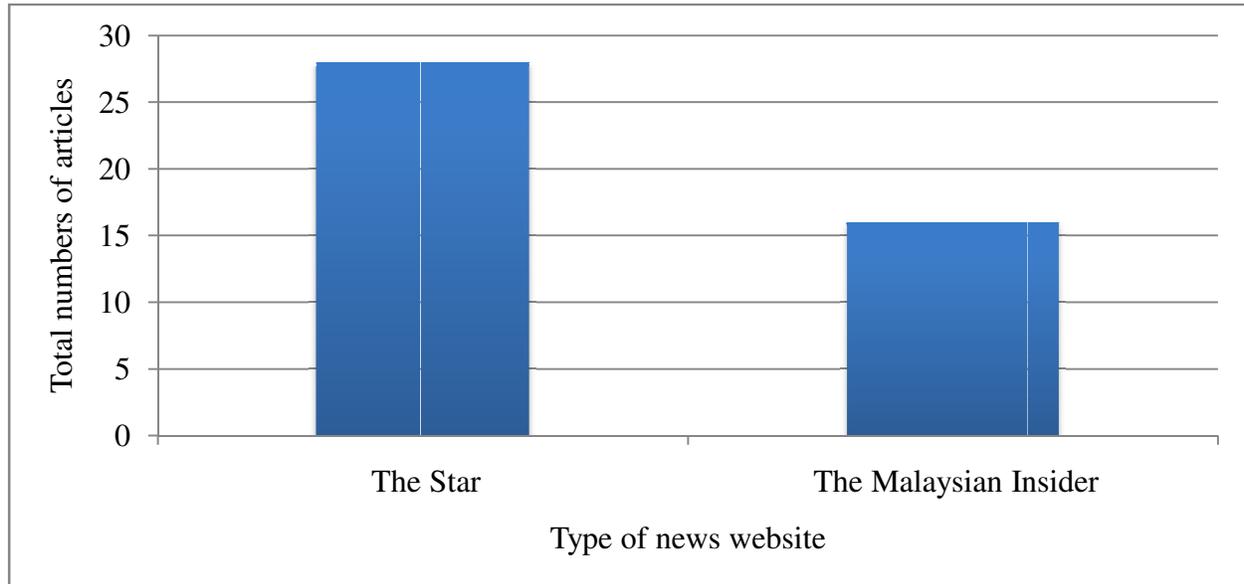
Findings of content analysis

Figure 1: Total numbers of articles of indigenous group in land and religious issue in The Star and The Malaysian Insider between January to June 2010

The numbers of articles found in The Star is higher than The Malaysian Insider between January to June 2010.

The Star has 28 of articles and The Malaysian Insider has 16 articles.

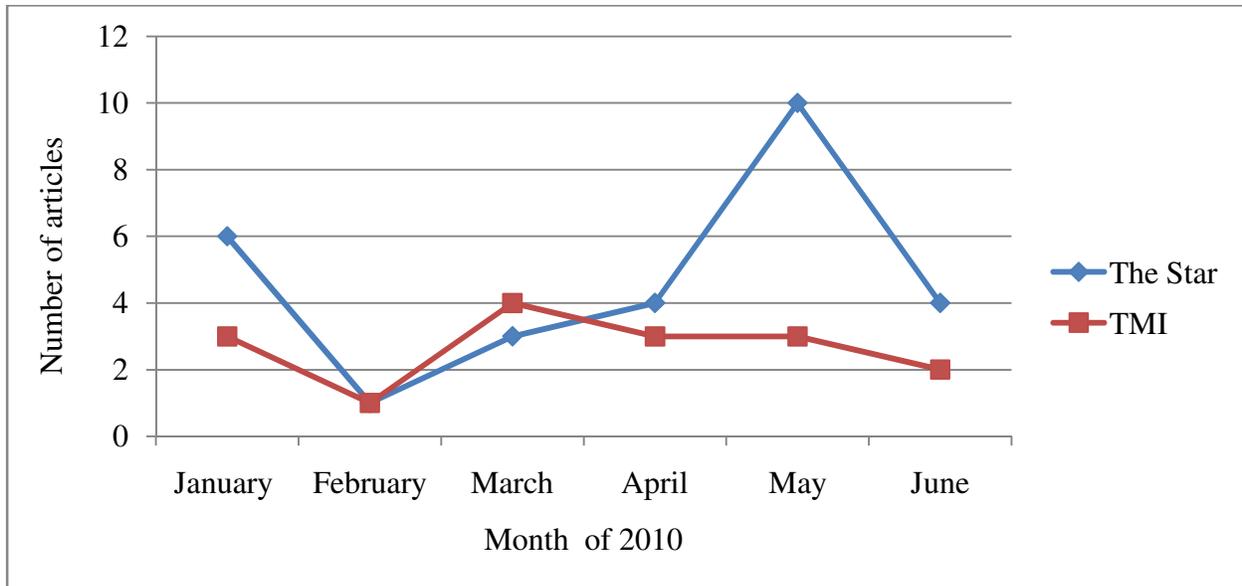


Figure 2: Numbers of articles of Indigenous group in The Star and The Malaysian Insider on each month (January 2010 to June 2010).

From Figure two, it shows that total news coverage of indigenous group in The Star news website from January to June 2010 is higher than the news in The Malaysian Insider, except in month of March, The Star with three articles and The Malaysian Insider with four articles.

The number of news articles produced by The Star in this half year fluctuated, where the highest number of news articles produced is 10 on May and one on February. On the other hand, the number of news articles produced by The Malaysian Insider, is nothing much difference.

The numbers of news coverage for The Malaysian Insider on January, April and May were staying at same, where three articles produced for these three months, respectively.

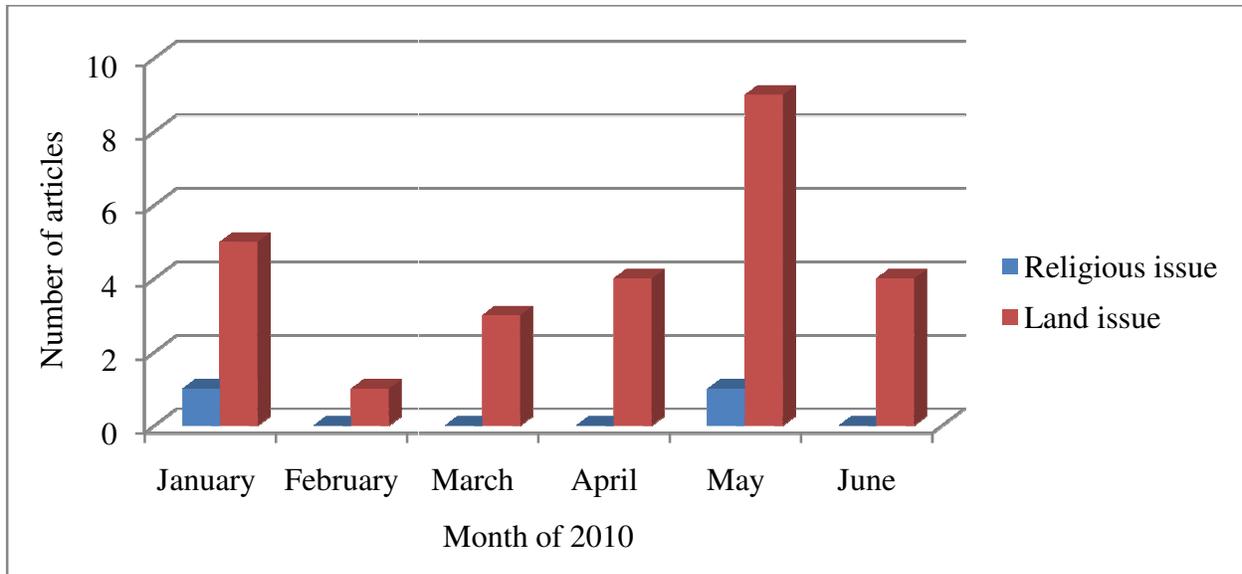


Figure 3 : Numbers of articles in religious and land issue in The Star

The figure shows The Star is emphasised on land issues in reporting indigenous group between January to June 2010.

The total of 28 articles produced by The Star in this period, 26 articles is about land issues of indigenous group, only two articles about religious issue, which each on month of January and May.

The highest number of articles produced is on May, where total 10 articles produced with nine articles are about land issues. It is important to take note that out of nine articles produced, five articles are focused on the same court case news, which is a follow up story.

The lowest number of articles produced is on February, where only one article about land issue covered by The Star.

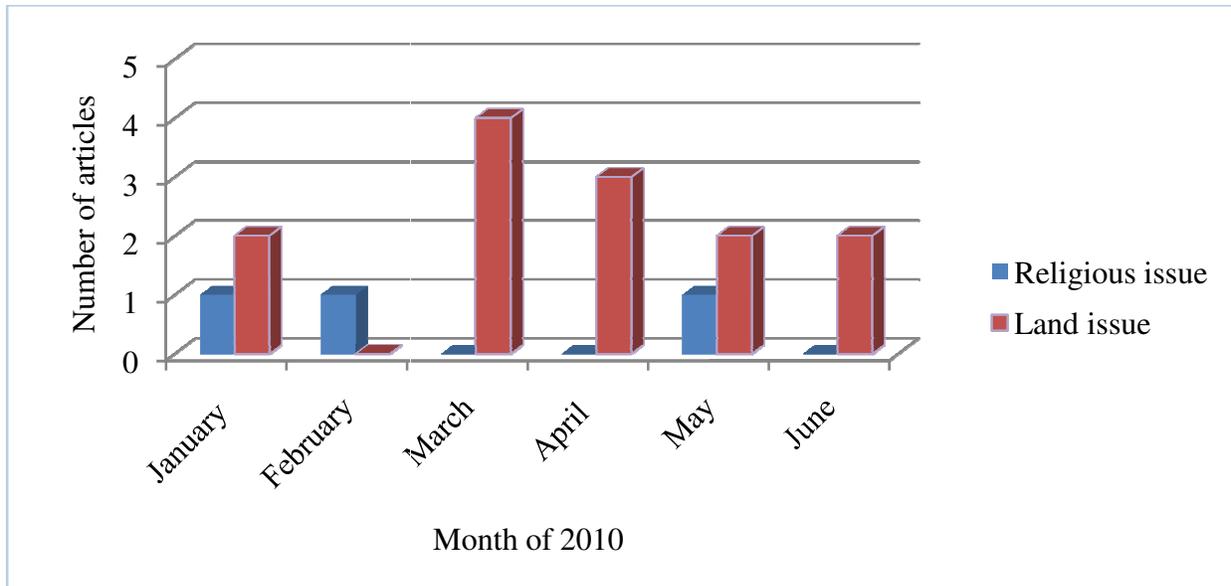


Figure 4 : Numbers of articles in religious and land issue in The Malaysian Insider

The above figure shows The Malaysian Insider is emphasised on land issues in reporting indigenous group between January to June 2010.

The total of 16 articles produced by The Malaysian Insider in this period, 13 articles is about land issues of indigeous group, only three articles about religious issue, where is on January, February and May, each article is produced, respectively.

The highest number of articles produced in on March, where total four articles about land issues are produced.

The lowest number of articles produced is on February, where only one article about land issue covered by The Malaysian Insider.

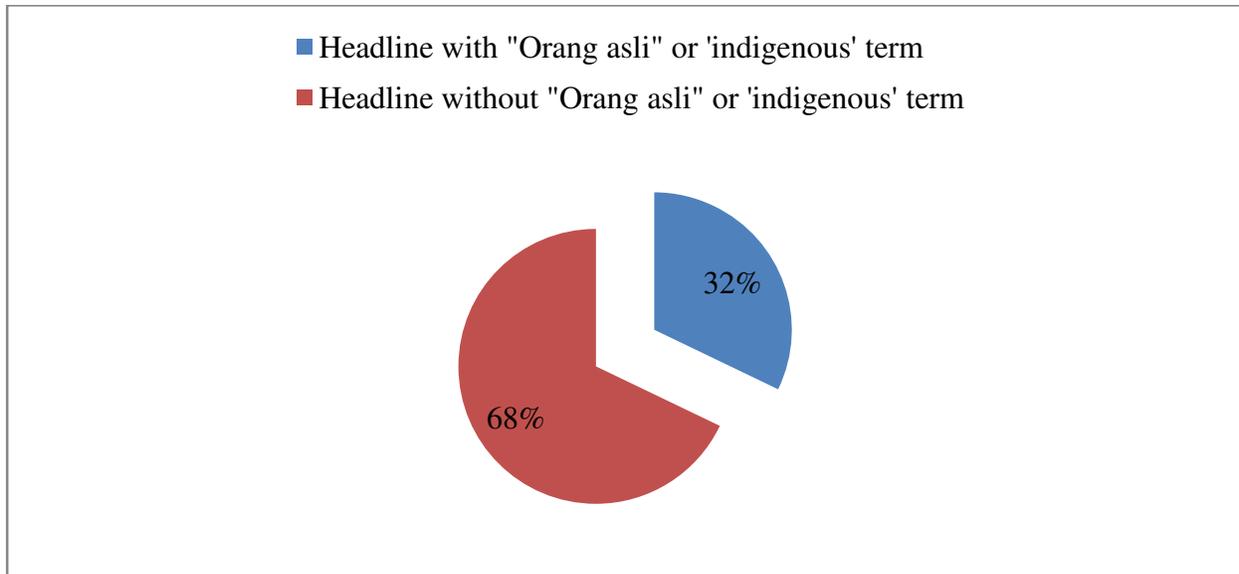


Figure 5: Percentage of term of 'Orang Asli' or 'indigenous' term appeared on the headline of The Star news

There are only 32 percent which nine articles with the term 'orang asli' or 'indigenous' appeared on the headline in The Star, while the other 68 percent or 19 articles' headline without this term.

However, there are few of headline of the articles specific the orang asli's subgroup name, such as term 'Temuan'.

The specific name of these subgroups, however may not give immediate message to the readers to know the news is related to the indigenous group as the indigenous group comprises too many subgroups in their communities and normally it may not known by readers. However, it did let the readers to know and understand the subgroups of Orang Asli.

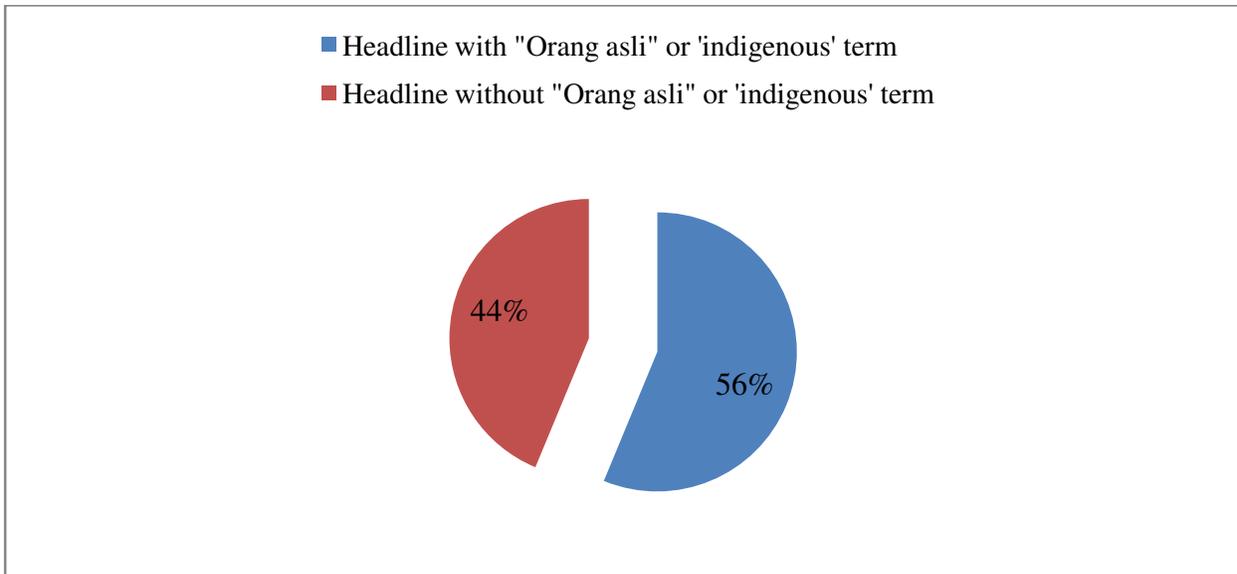


Figure 6: Percentage of term of 'Orang Asli' or 'indigenous' term appeared on the headline of The Malaysian Insider news website

There are 56 percent which nine articles with the term 'orang asli' or 'indigenous' as the headline in The Malaysian Insider, while the other 44 percent or eight articles' headline without these terms.

The setting of the headline plays as an important function to get readers' attention on the particular news. When the term 'orang asli' named as headline, it makes the readers to know the particular news is related to indigenous group.

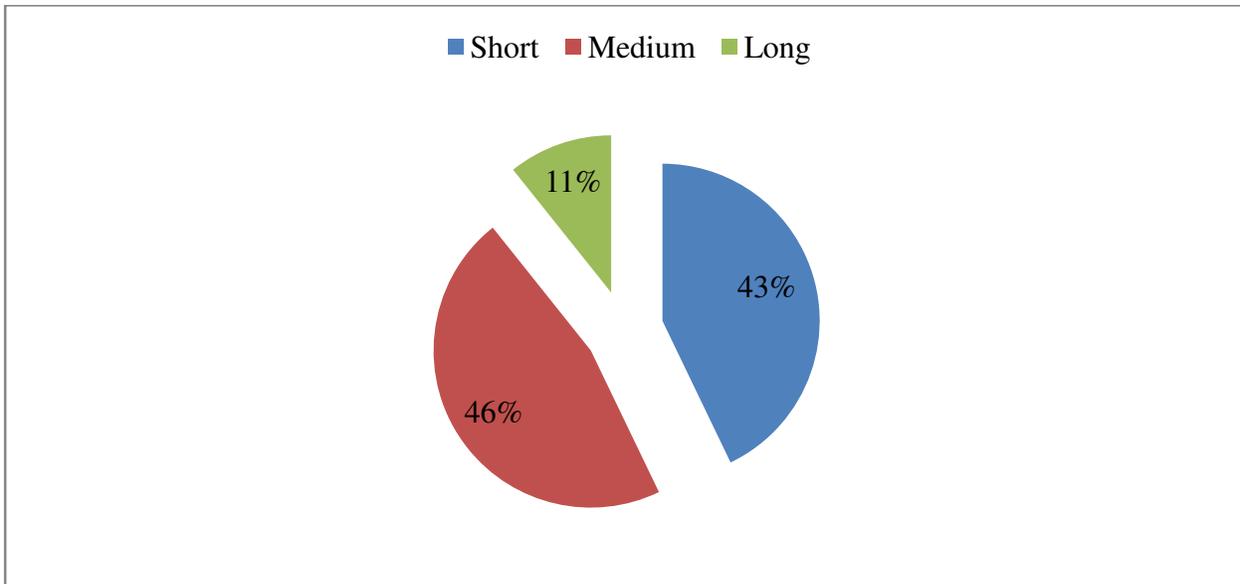


Figure 7: Percentage of short, medium, long articles of indigenous group in The Star

The percentage of short and medium articles of The Star news website comprises 43 and 46 percent, respectively. The long articles only 11 percent, which equal to 3 articles.

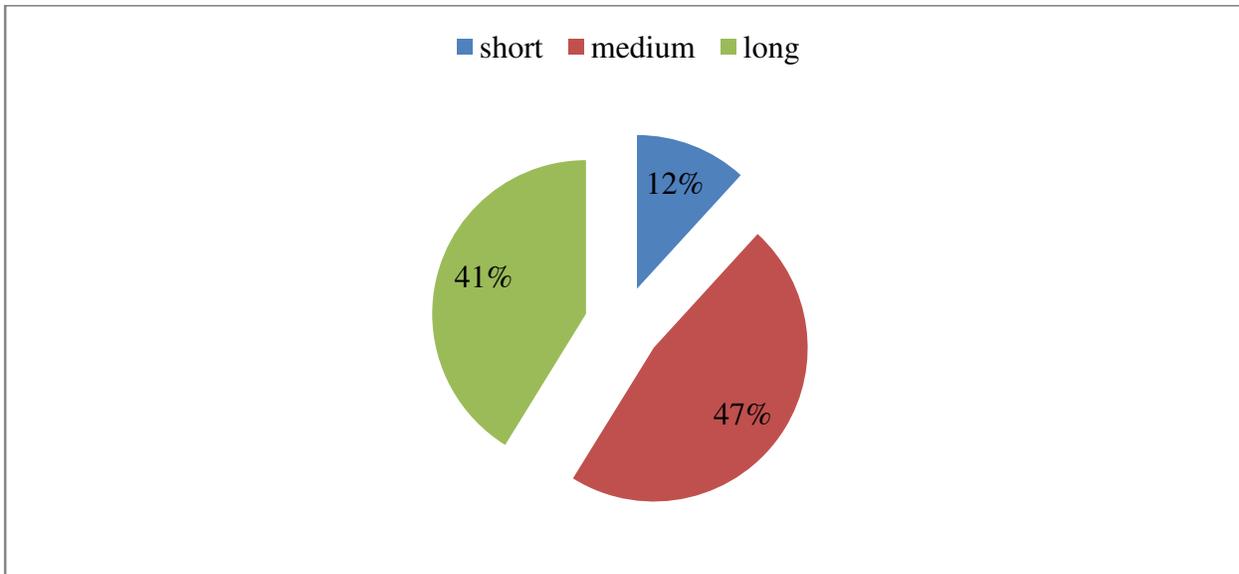


Figure 8: Percentage of short, medium, long articles of indigenous group in The Malaysian Insider

The percentage of short and medium articles of The Malaysian Insider news website comprises 12 and 47 percent, respectively. The long articles 41 percent, which equal to 7 articles.

Analysis of content analysis

Based on the results, it shows that The Star, has reported more indigenous group' issue as compare to The Malaysian Insider. This results shows the reporting trends of The Star in recent times has given more news coverage to the minority shows its social responsibility to the people regardless the races. Another reason also may due to The Star as a mainstream media has bigger role in promoting One Malaysia concept which stresses people will be sidelined in Malaysia. The One Malaysia concept was introduced by the current Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak on April 2009.

Also, both media also reported more on land issues as compare to the religious' issue, it may due to the land issue is prior concerns in the indigenous group society due to the many problems over their land rights.

Meanwhile, although The Star has reported more news on indigenous group as compare to The Malaysian Insider, but the news reporting is considered as more short and simple, as it is found out that 43 percent of articles found are short length and only 11 percent articles are in long length. It may due to The Star is solely reporting, but without giving further explanation, elaboration of the news of indigenous group. Meanwhile, The Malaysian Insider, there are only 12 percent of short length articles and 41 long length articles. It may be due to The Malaysian Insider has given more comprehensive and informative report of the indigenous group.

Based on the results of the content analysis, in The Star, the frequency of reporting on indigenous group in land and religious issue is unstable as the lowers coverage is only one article on February but the highest coverage could be reach to 10 articles on month of May.

Meanwhile, the researcher found out that out of 10 articles reported on May in The Star, five of the articles are the same issue which the news is about the victory of Orang Asli in land

issue. The headlines of these five articles are “Temuan land suit finally resolved after 15 years”, “RM 6.5mil settlement for Temuans whose land was taken away”, “A bittersweet Temuan victory”, “Finally, recognition of land rights for orang asli” and “A long-awaited victory”.

This news has continuously reported from 26 May 2010 until 30 May 2010. The news mainly focuses on the victory gained by indigenous group named Temuan for almost 15 years.

As compare to The Malaysian Insider news website, the frequency of the news reporting are only slightly different as the lowers news coverage is on February which only one article produced while highest coverage will only four articles on April. The Malaysian Insider has only reported one news article on the winning of Temuan in the land court case issue on May as compare to The Star reported the same issue with five articles continuously and violently for five days long.

It is also found out that the frequency use of the term of ‘orang asli’ or ‘indigenous’ as headline in the news articles on The Malaysian Insider is higher than The Star although The Star has given more news coverage for this half year news on indigenous group. The headline may plays an important role to grab attention of people about the news issue, thus it suggested the headline with ‘orang asli’ or ‘indigenous’ may more quickly to let readers know what the news article is about.

In conclusion of the finding gathered through content analysis, the researcher found out The Star which given more news coverage on this minority group, indeed would made readers more understand on this issue and gives indications of value of social responsibility of not neglecting minority group, but the lack of comprehensive coverage main also be a main concern to made readers to deeply understand the problems faced by the minority.

The survey will be done in later part to find more about the preferences reading of the

people in choices of mainstream media, The Star and alternative media, The Malaysian Insider. The question on how far the news coverage and reporting would affecting people understand on the indigenous group's problems will be found.

Findings of survey

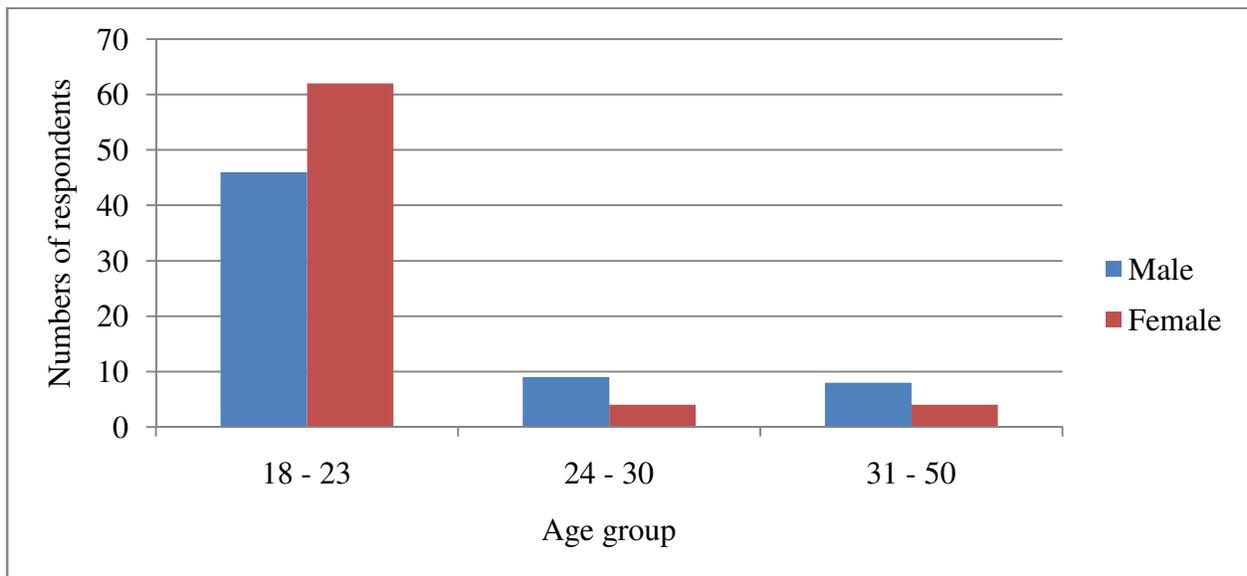


Figure 9: Numbers of respondents according to age group

The numbers of respondents in age group 18-23 are the highest where the numbers of respondents from age group of 24-30 and 31-50 is low. There are 47 percent of male and the rest of respondents made up of female.

The highest numbers of respondents from age group 18-23 is due to the majority of the respondents made up of students who is between the age ranges in UTAR.

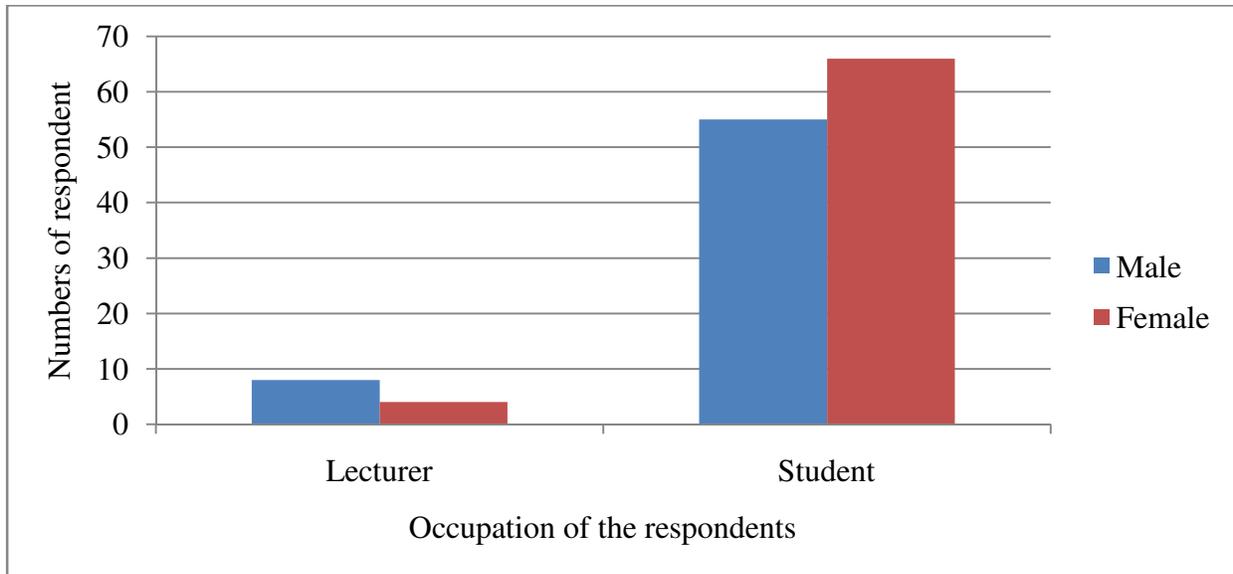


Figure 10: Numbers of respondents according to occupation

Due to questionnaire distributed in the form of convenient sampling, researcher mainly distributed the questionnaire to students surrounding her and only small proportion of lecturers involved in this survey.

Out of 133 sets of questionnaire, only nine percent, which are 12 respondents, are lecturers.

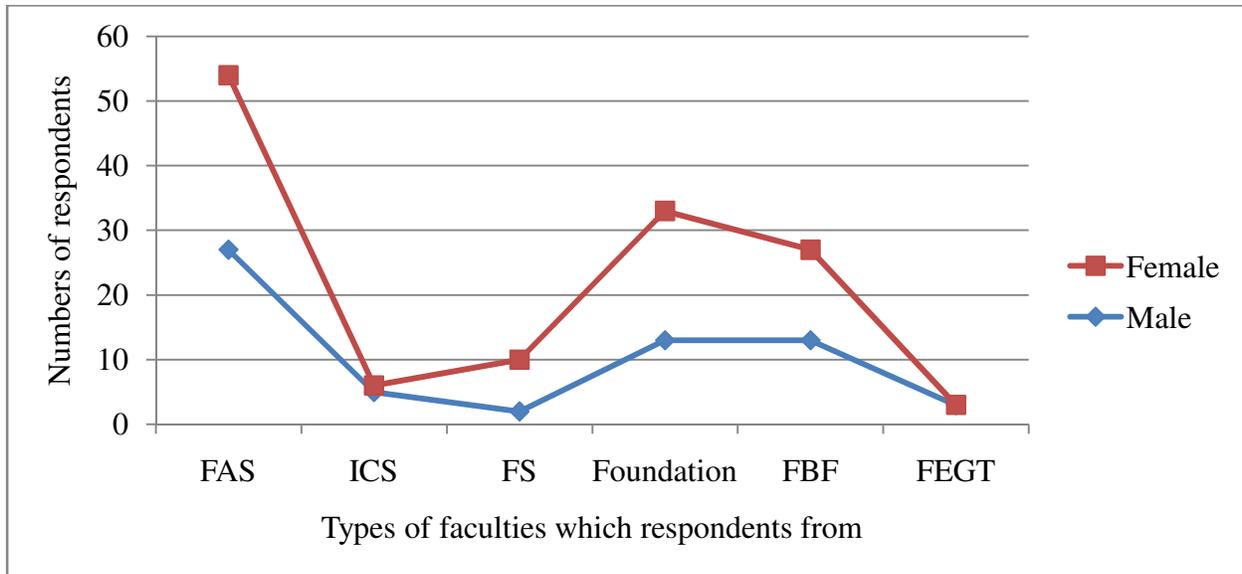


Figure 11: Numbers of respondents according to faculties

The respondents involve in this survey are from different faculties. There are six different faculties, include Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS), Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Faculty of Science (FS), Faculty of Business and Finance (FBF), Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) and Foundation of Studies.

The numbers of female respondents from each faculty is higher than male respondents. The highest numbers of respondent contributed to this survey is from FAS which is the faculty the researcher froms. As the researcher easy to meet up with respondents from FAS and made it easy to distribute the survey to them, thus the respondents from this faculty is deemed higher.

There are moderate numbers of respondents from foundation and FBF whereas the lowers numbers of respondents is from ICS, FS and FEGT. It may due to the reason these faculties block and classes is far from FAS which the researcher distribute out the questionnaire.

Results for Part B: Interest and understanding on news websites and indigenous group

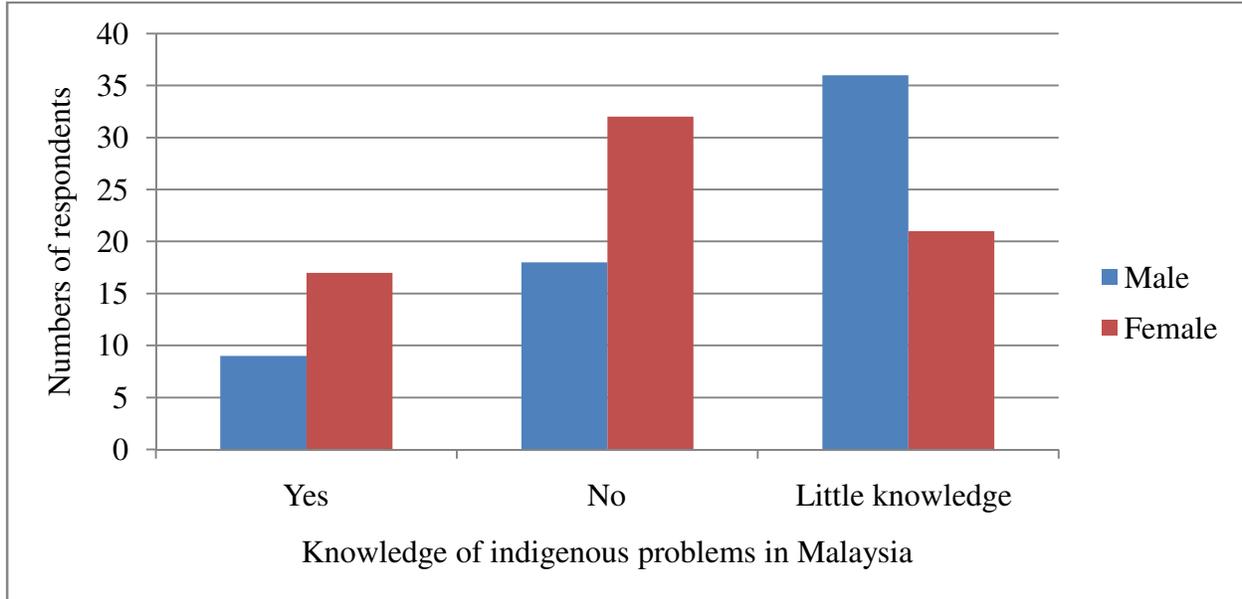


Figure 12: The knowledge of indigenous problems of the respondents

There are only 19 percent of respondents know the problems of indigenous group in Malaysia, 38 percent of respondents answer that they do not know and the rest of respondents have only have little knowledge about the question.

It is shows that whether male or female respondents, only small proportion of them know about the problems of indigenous group in Malaysia. Among those know, 17 are female respondents and nine are male respondents.

Table 1: Comparison between numbers of respondents who know or/ and read The Star and The Malaysian Insider

| | The Star | The Malaysian Insider |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Know and read | 94 | 30 |
| Know but don't read | 39 | 19 |
| Don't know | 0 | 84 |

It shows that the total numbers of respondents who know and read The Star is higher than those respondents who know and read The Malaysian Insider.

There are 94 respondents who know and read The Star but only 30 of them read the alternative news website, The Malaysian Insider. It means that there are 71 percent of the respondents who know the Star and read The Star and the rest respondents know but do not read The Star.

Meanwhile, there is another case in The Malaysian Insider. There are only 23 percent of the total respondents who know and read The Malaysian Insider, 63 percent of respondents even do not know The Malaysian Insider is an online news website.

Out of total 133 respondents who answer the question, only 14 percent know The Malaysian Insider but do not read the news of this website.

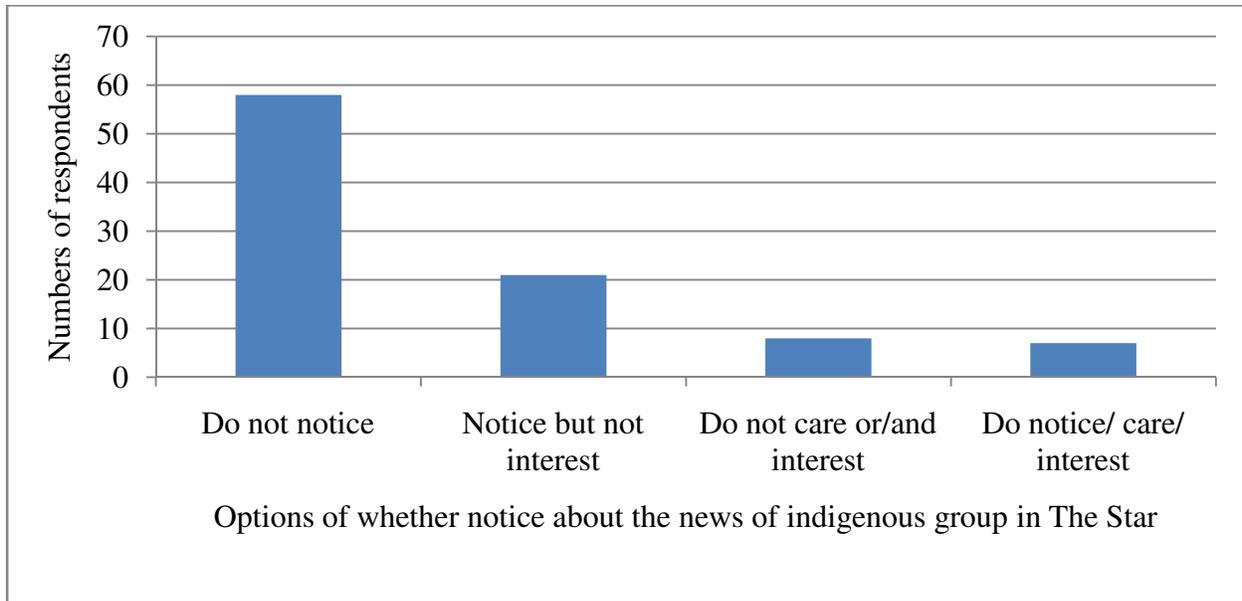


Figure 13: Numbers of respondents who notice about the news of indigenous group in The Star

There are 94 out of 133 respondents who read The Star, but there are 62 percent of these respondents, which consist of 58 respondents, did not notice about the news of indigenous group.

Only seven percent, which seven respondents answer that they did noticed the news of indigenous group in The Star and care about this issue. Also, there are 22 percent of respondents did noticed but do not interest to read it.

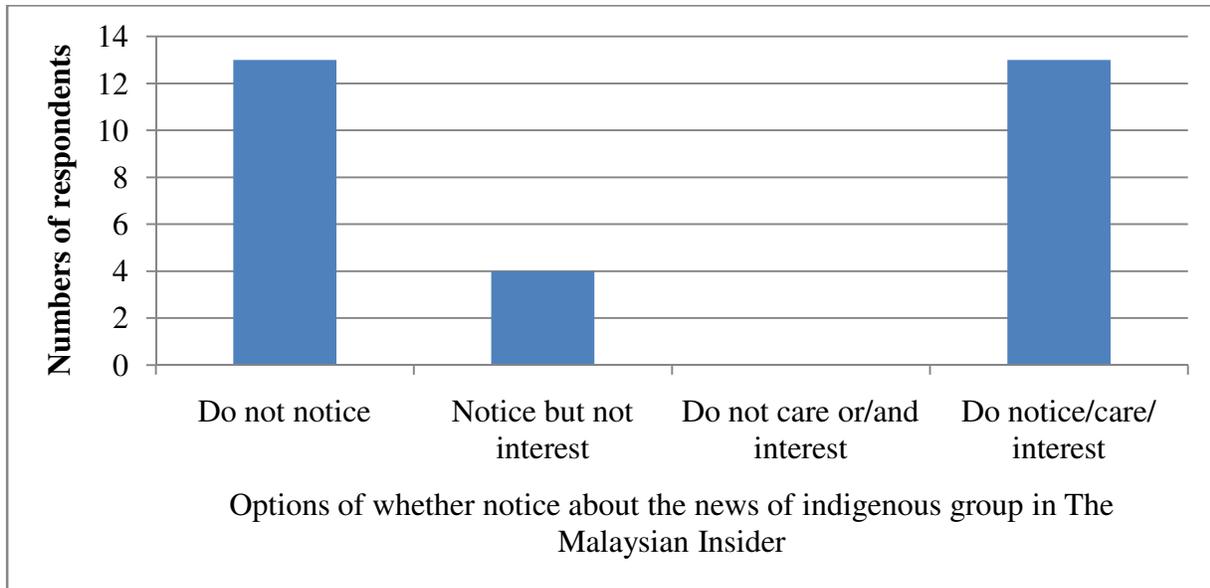


Figure 14: Numbers of respondents who notice about the news of indigenous group in The Malaysian Insider

44 percent of the respondents of the 30 respondents, who know and read The Malaysian Insider, did not notice about the news in The Malaysian Insider, 43 percent did noticed, care and interest of the news of indigenous group in Malaysia. The rest of 13 per cent noticed but not interested.

Although there are only small numbers of the respondents, which is 18 percent out of the total respondents, who read The Malaysian Insider, there are 43 percent respondents did notice, care and interest of indigenous group in Malaysia.

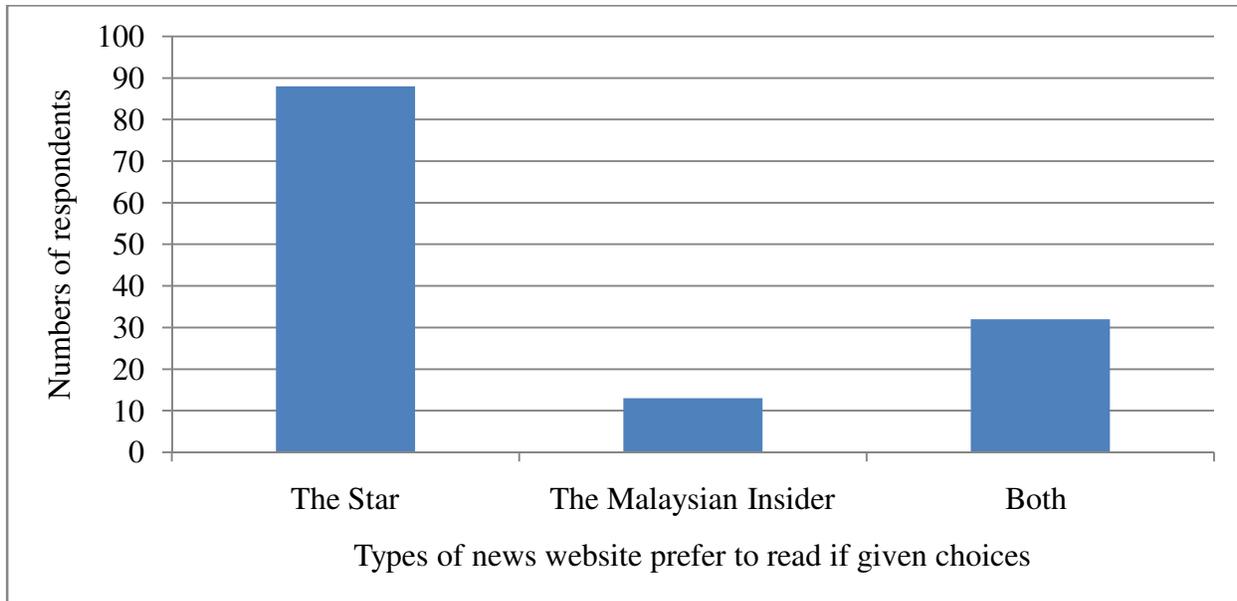


Figure 15: Numbers of respondents in chosen The Star and The Malaysian Insider as their preferences news website

There are 66 percent of respondents which are 88, are prefer to read The Star news as compare to The Malaysian Insider news. Only 10 percent, which 13 respondents chosen to read The Malaysian Insider news, and the rest, 24 percent respondents answer 'both' which they will read both The Star and The Malaysian Insider if given choices.

This gives a sign that people will still prefer to choose mainstream media as their choice to get information and knowledge. Undeniable, the mainstream media, which is The Star plays bigger role and impact on what its reported as compared to the alternative media, The Malaysian Insider. It may due to the The Star as mainstream and long established newspaper company is more popular and well know as compare to the alternative media which less popular and rare to certain community.

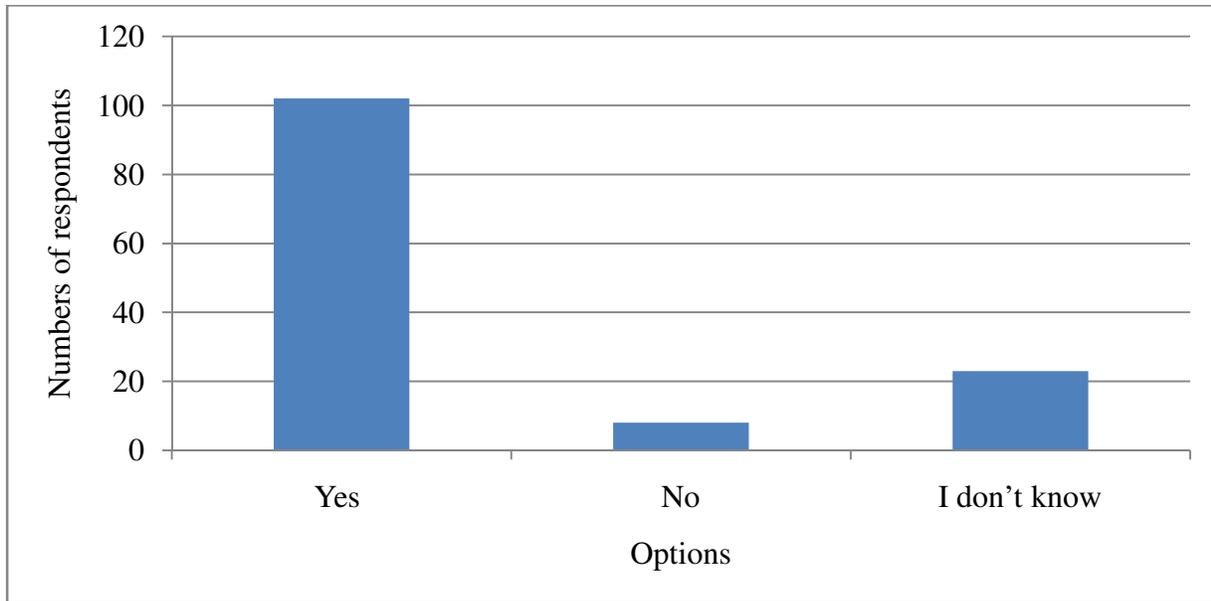


Figure 16: Numbers of respondents think that whether they would more understand and/ or interest in indigenous group if media reported more on this issue

There are 77 percent of total respondents answers yes when asked whether they would more understand or interest on indigenous group in Malaysia if media more reported on this issue. There are only six percent of respondents think that they would not understand or have no interest even if the media have more reported on this issue. Only 17 percent of the respondents' answers do not know.

The high numbers of answer yes to this question indicates that the media has play in big role in instilling understand or interest of people on indigenous group.

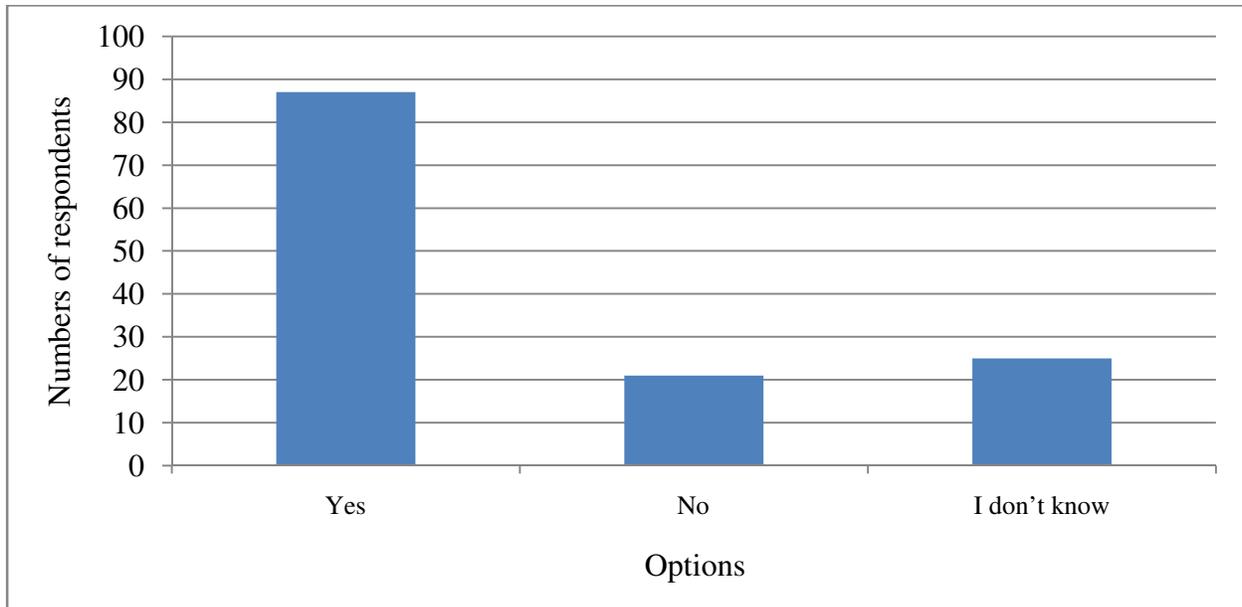


Figure 17: Numbers of respondents who think that The Star as mainstream media do/ do not plays bigger role in promoting One Malaysia Concept

There are 65 percent of the total respondents think that The Star plays bigger role in promoting One Malaysia Concept. Only 16 percent do not think so and the rest of respondents answer do not know in this question.

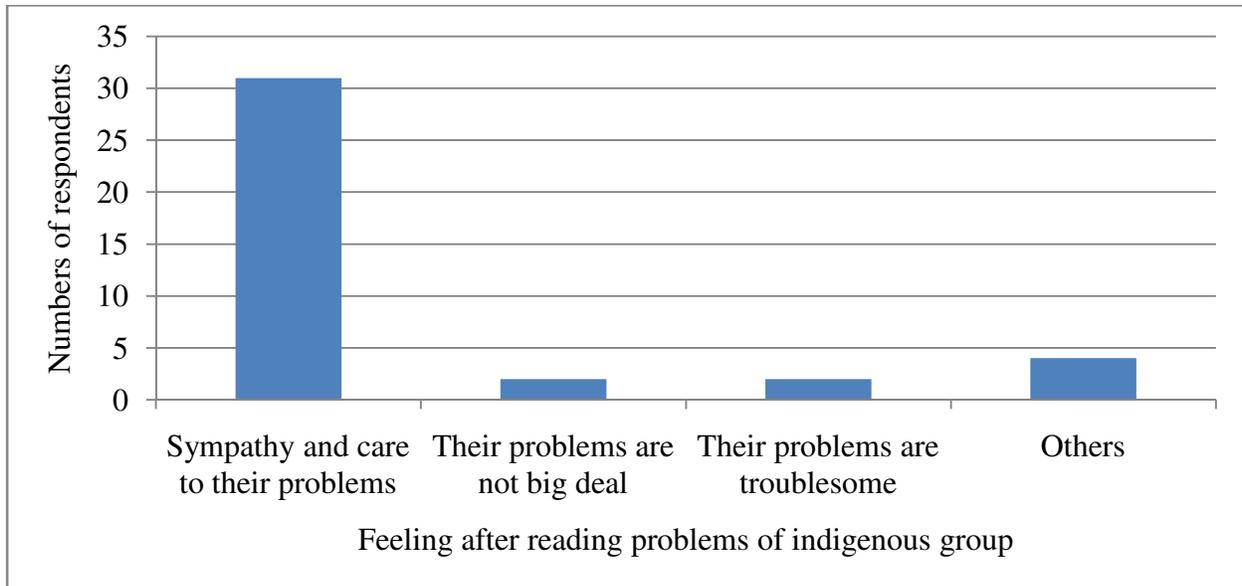


Figure 18: Numbers of respondent on their feeling after reading the news of problems of indigenous group

There are only total numbers of 29 respondents did read the news of indigenous group. There are 80 percent of these respondents felt sympathy and more care about the problems of these minority group faced.

Meanwhile, the options of ‘their problems are not big deal at all’ and ‘their problems are troublesome’ only comprise five percent of respondents, respectively.

There are five percent of respondents filled the answer of others. These others options filled in by the respondents include “not interested”, “I cannot do anything as the government should take this responsibility”, “more should be done to help this group and not politicize the situation like what is being done in the current media”, ‘it is not fair for them because they are part of the society”.

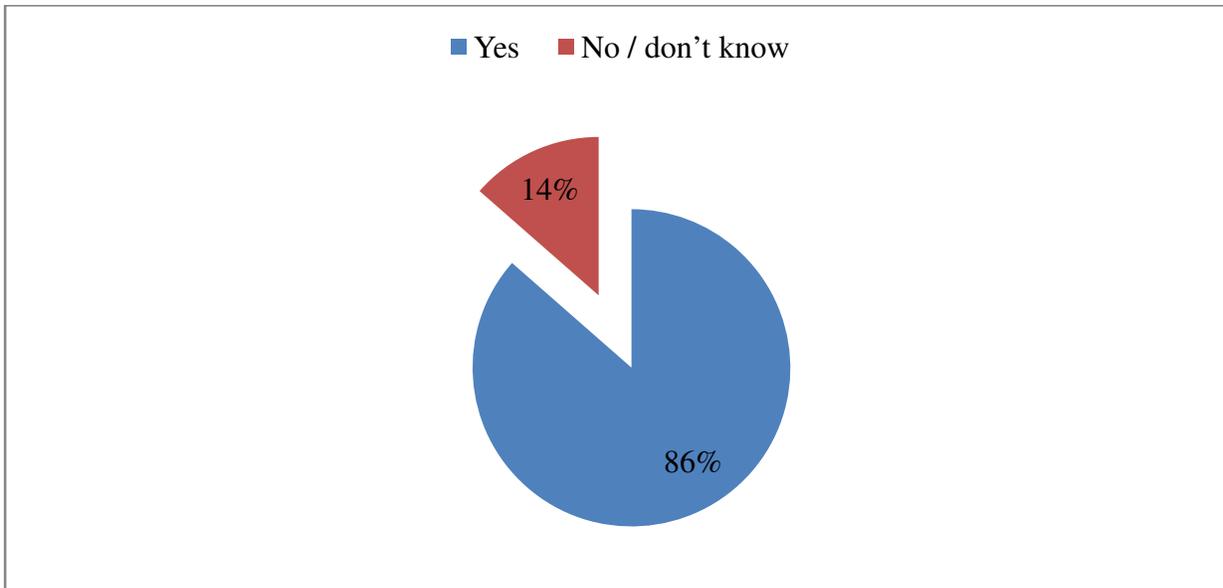


Figure 19: Do media affect understand readers on minority groups

In this general question, 115 respondents answered that media would affect understand on minority groups. Most of the reasons given are they relied on the media as a tool to get information. Only 18 respondents said 'No' to this question.

Analysis of survey data

The low percentage of 19 percent of total respondents in the knowledge of indigenous group problems in Malaysia indicates the poor understandings or knowledge of the public towards the problems of indigenous groups in Malaysia.

Also, throughout this survey, it shows the popularity and well known newspaper or news website of The Star as a mainstream media as compare to The Malaysian Insider as an alternative news website. All respondents who conduct in the survey know The Star and 71 percent of the respondents did read The Star proven the popularity of this paper. There is different case in The Malaysian Insider, where seldom known and even read by the respondents, 63 percent of the respondents do not know The Malaysian Insider and only 23 percent read The Malaysian Insider.

The well known and popularity The Star may due to the long establishment of The Star since 1971 and launching as first online news website on 1995. The Malaysian Insider, as an alternative media, only found on 2008 after the 12th general election and only available online may become a factor of lack of popularity among the people.

Meanwhile, referring to figure 13 and figure 14, the researcher could found out that although numbers of The Star readers is much higher than numbers of The Malaysian Insider readers, only seven percent of The Star readers did notice, interest and care about the news of indigenous group in The Star whereas there are 43 percent of The Malaysian Insiders readers did notice about the news of indigenous group in the particular news website.

This may due to The Malaysian Insider's coverage in the news of indigenous group is able to get more attention from the readers as compare to The Star.

On the question of given options to read The Star or The Malaysian Insider's news or both, It shows the respondents prefer to read The Star as compare to The Malaysian Insider,

where there are 88 percent of respondents chose The Star in the questionnaire. Besides, there are only 13 percent chosen The Malaysian Insider to read in this question.

Besides, 77 percent of respondents thought they will be more understand or have interest in the indigenous issue if media report more on this issue indicates The Star has better known and chosen by the reader thus it would create more influence and role in educating the public by reporting news.

65 percent of the respondents viewed that The Star as mainstream media plays bigger role in promoting One Malaysia concept. Based on the few figures, it clearly reflects that the popularity and credibility of the respondents towards The Star is higher than The Malaysian Insider proven it plays bigger role in educating and influence the readers.

In the general questions, 86 percent respondents agreed that they will understand the minority group better if media more reported on this issue. This has proven that power of media in influencing people. Only one of the respondents who is a lecturer of FAS in UTAR answered in yes and no with explanation. According to him, the media would made the readers more understand on this issue if the news able to expose reader about the problems of indigenous group. But, if the news only emphasis the harmony image of indigenous group, which using indigenous group to construct a harmony One Malaysia image without telling the problems and difficulties that they are facing, the news would not bring understanding of the minority groups to the readers.

CHAPTER V DISCUSISION AND CONCLUSION

Discussion

Based on the finding part, it is found that the news coverage in The Star news website in the particular period has contained more articles than The Malaysian Insider news website. This seems opposed to the statement of “Malaysia’s aboriginal community is often unrepresented” in the mainstream media”. This can say The Star owns social responsibility by reporting the news of indigenous instead of sidelined them. The media which owns social responsibility deemed has role to promote cultural pluralism in this diversity land like Malaysia.

However, it is also found that The Malaysian Insider, with less numbers of reporting compare to The Star but the news reporting in The Malaysian Insider is more comprehensive and content more inclusive information due to the high numbers of long articles found.

The high popularity, well known of The Star as compare to The Malaysian Insider indicates it works greater impact to instill understanding of the people towards this issue. Based on the survey results, many of respondents lacking knowledge of the problems of indigenous group in Malaysia thought that they would more understand and interest in the issue of problems of indigenous group of media reported more on this issue. This fulfills what states in agenda setting theory, where it said that media plays an important role in shaping importance of news issue in the mind of readers. As the results shows majority of respondents reading choice more towards The Star it is still can shows the power of The Star in influencing the people as compare to The Malaysian Insider.

Still, the finding shows The Star plays bigger role in promoting One Malaysia concept which stresses that no one is sidelined as Malaysian as compare to the Malaysian Insider.

Limitations of study

The short period of half year news coverage of these media is unable to show the overall different coverage between The Star and The Malaysian Insider. The data results may only can used to analysis the reporting style of the particular period. Also, the using of quantitative analysis may lead the results lack of some details explanation of the news content.

Also, the target of respondents only generalize UTAR lecturers and students may not be able to generalize the view and opinion of others categories of respondents thus it failed to generalize the whole population.

Recommendatuons of study

The comparison of style of reporting on indigenous group in these media can be studied in longer period in different aspect can be done in future analysis to study and examine deeply about the media in reporting this issue as the media has play an important role to give representative of Malaysians in this pluralism society. Also, the use of qualitative content in analysis in future study in content of news can gain better in depth study on media reporting on minority groups in Malaysia.

In this study, researcher only used Microsoft Excel in drawing out the the results data, in future study, the software of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) should be used in order to gain more accurate and quick results.

Conclusion

In pluralistic society like Malaysia, both The Star and The Malaysian Insider as mainstream media and alternative media have social responsibility in reporting the news of indigenous groups. For The Star, although the numbers of articles reported is higher than The Malaysian Insider, but it should improve the reporting form by covered more information and

details related to the news of indigenous group to enhance the understanding of the problems of indigenous group among the readers. Besides, it is important to both mainstream and alternative media to give fair representative and critical reporting to the minority groups, whether positive and negative.

Also, The Star, as a mainstream media with its high popularity deemed play bigger role in promoting One Malaysia concept and instill understanding and interest of the minority group among the public in this pluralism society as this concept strong emphasized all in Malaysia are equal as one.

Based on the findings, there are higher numbers of respondents did not know and understand about the difficulties and problems faced by the indigenous group. The influence power of media especially mainstream media like The Star, plays important role to instill understanding of indigenous groups among the public in pluralism society.

Still, awareness about the problems of minority groups should make to the public as citizens are vital to influence government' policies and cooperation of government and media are needed to help those needed.

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Appendix A

List of ethnic subgroups in Peninsula Malaysia

1. Orang Laut
2. Seletar
3. Mah Meri
4. Temuan
5. Jakun
6. Semai
7. Temiar
8. Che Wong
9. Jah Hut
10. Semelai
11. Semoq Beri
12. Jahai
13. Lanoh
14. Bateq
15. Kensiu
16. Kintak
17. Mendriq
18. Kanaq
19. Kuala

Source of information: http://aseanpedia.jbdirectory.com/Orang_Asli#_note-coacstat

Appendix B

List of indigenous groups of Sarawak that defined as Dayak in Constitution Malaysia

1. Bidayuh
2. Bukitan
3. Bisayuh
4. Dusun
5. Iban
6. Kedayan
7. Kelabit
8. Kanyan
9. Kenyah
10. Kajang
11. Lugat
12. Lisum
13. Malay
14. Melanau
15. Murut
16. Penan
17. Sian
18. Tagal
19. Tabun
20. Ukit

Source of information: Ethnic group worldwide: A ready reference handbook, pg 252

Appendix C

Coding sheet for The Star

| Date | Headline | Date | Headline |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| | Orang Asli/ Indigenous group | | Orang Asli/ Indigenous group |
| 06/01 | / | 11/06 | |
| 13/01 | / | 20/06 | / |
| 16/01 | | 23/06 | |
| 21/01 | / | 01/06 | |
| 26/01 | | 22/06 | |
| 29/01 | | | |
| 02/02 | / | | |
| 18/03 | | | |
| 25/03 | / | | |
| 27/03 | | | |
| 07/04 | | | |
| 08/04 | | | |
| 20/04 | / | | |
| 24/04 | | | |
| 07/05 | | | |
| 18/05 | | | |
| 26/05 | | | |
| 27/05 | | | |
| 27/05 | / | | |
| 27/05 | | | |
| 29/05 | | | |
| 30/05 | / | | |
| 30/05 | | | |
| 01/05 | | | |

Coding sheet for The Star

| Headline of article | Issue covered (Religious (R) / Land(L)) |
|--|--|
| Orang Asli lose bid for power | L |
| Perak forms Orang Asli panel to help them in progress | L |
| Minister : It's ok to allow 'Allah' use in Sabah and Sarawak | R |
| Court orders NCR land returned to Orang Asli | L |
| Bakun residents ask for fair share of benefits from dam project | L |
| MP: Register Murum Folk affected by dam project first | L |
| Court fixes date to hear orang asli application | L |
| 'Review land proposal' | L |
| Orang asli hope to resettle in ancestral land | L |
| Second wave of development | L |
| Pahang- Selangor RM 9bil tunnel plan officially get off the ground | L |
| Reserve land to be converted to nursery | L |
| Hulu Selangor Orang asli rooting for Barisan | L |
| ' Choose devt and stability over empty promises': Muhyiddin | L |
| Freedom to practise any faith | R |
| RM 65mil worth of jobs for small contractors | L |
| Temuan land suit finally resolved after 15 years | L |
| RM 6.5mil settlement for Temuans whose land was taken away | L |

| Headline of article | Issue covered (Religious / Land) |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Selangor to gazette 25 orang asli villages following landmark decision | L |
| A bittersweet Temuan victory | L |
| Sultan of Pahang upset with illegal land clearing for cultivation in Cameron Highlands | L |
| Finally, recognition of land rights for orang asli | L |
| A long-awaited victory | L |
| Life after Bakun | L |
| Controlled easing of subsidies | L |
| Orang asli protest of 'loss' of land | L |
| Take effort to stop land encroachment, state government told. | L |
| Remaining 35 families affected by Bakun agree to move | L |
| No interference from PM's Dept and Rosmah, says Deputy Minister | L |

Coding Sheet for The Malaysian Insider

| Date | Headline |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| | Orang Asli/ Indigenous group |
| 05/01 | / |
| 12/01 | |
| 13/01 | / |
| 07/02 | |
| 08/03 | |
| 18/03 | / |
| 27/03 | / |
| 30/03 | / |
| 19/04 | / |
| 24/04 | |
| 25/04 | |
| 20/05 | / |
| 26/05 | / |
| 28/05 | |
| 21/06 | |
| 23/06 | / |
| 10/06 | |
| | |

Coding sheet for The Malaysian Insider

| Headline of article | Issue covered (Religious / Land) |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| High court rules against Orang Asli Christian over village church | L |
| East Malaysian Christians say will continue using “Allah” | R |
| Perak sets up orang asli panel to solve woes | L |
| In temerloh, a curious struggle to power a village church | R |
| Perak: Stability in slight after two years | L |
| We are also 1 Malaysia, says Orang Asli leader | L |
| BN leaders tells the region that Malaysia takes care of its indigenous peoples best | L |
| Outsiders interfering in Orang Asli land issues | L |
| Battle full swing for Orang Asli votes in | L |
| DPM will do more for rural folk | L |
| Felcra settlers ‘reminded’ of BN’s contribution | L |
| Orang Asli NGO submits protest memo over land issues | L |
| Orang Asli get RM 6.5mil in landmark case | L |
| Sibu result reflects growing Christian vote | R |
| Government claims no interference in cancelled NTV7, TV2 show | L |
| Orang Asli : Poverty to be reduced to zero by 2020 | L |
| Najib plays it safe on subsidies | L |

Appendix D

Hi, My name is Loh Chye Moi. I am a student from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and currently doing my final year in Journalism course. Currently I am doing my Final Year Project in studying the comparison news coverage on indigenous group (Orang Asli) between mainstream media (The Star) and alternative media (The Malaysian Insider).

I have to carry out **a survey to study the interest of your reading habit** in helping to find out the impact of interest of readers in affecting the values of reporting carried out by these two media.

This questionnaire contains 3 pages, with 18 simple questions and I hoped you will answer it with patient and sincere. Thanks you very much.

Part A: Demographic (Circle ONE or fill in the blank only)

1. What is your gender?
 - A. Male
 - B. Female

2. What is your age?
 - A. 18-23
 - B. 23-30
 - C. 31-50

3. What is your occupation?
 - A. Lecturer
 - B. Student

4. Which faculty you from?
(For example, FAS)

5. Where is your hometown? (Name the state which you from, for example, 'Perak')

Part B: Interest and understanding on The Star and The Malaysian Insider news website and indigenous group.

6. Do you know about the issue about problems of indigenous group in Malaysia?
 - A. Yes, I know it.
 - B. No, I don't know.
 - C. I have little knowledge about this group.

7. Do you know The Star newspaper?
 - A. Yes. (Please proceed to Q8)
 - B. No. (Please proceed to Q10)

8. Have you read The Star newspaper?
 - A. Yes. (Please proceed to Q9)
 - B. No. (Please proceed to Q10)

9. Do you notice about the news about indigenous group in The Star?
 - A. I do not notice it. (Please proceed to Q10)
 - B. I notice it, but I have no interest to read this article. (Please proceed to Q10)
 - C. I do not care/ interest in it. (Please proceed to Q10)
 - D. I do notice/ care/ interest in it. (Please proceed to Q10)

10. Do you know online news website The Malaysian Insider?
 - A. Yes. I heard about this. (Please proceed to Q11)
 - B. No, I do not know what it is. (Please proceed to Q13)

11. Have you read The Malaysian Insider news?
 - A. Yes. (Please proceed to Q12)
 - B. No. (Please proceed to Q13)

12. Do you notice about the news about indigenous group in The Malaysian Insider?
 - A. I do not notice it. (Please proceed to Q14)
 - B. I notice it, but I have no interest to read this article. (Please proceed to Q14)
 - C. I do not care/ interest in it. (Please proceed to Q14)
 - D. I do notice/ care/ interest in it. (Please proceed to Q14)

13. Do you read newspaper/ news website?
 - A. Yes. Please specify the name of newspaper you read. For example, The Star. (Please proceed to Q14).
 - B. No. I do not like to read newspaper at all. (Please proceed to Q14)

Q 14 to 16 (answer each question accordingly)

14. If you are given the choices, between The Star and The Malaysian Insider news, which one you prefer to read?
 - A. The Star
 - B. The Malaysian Insider
 - C. Both.

15. Do you think if media more news on indigenous group would make you more understand or/ and interest on indigenous group in Malaysia?
- A. Yes.
 - B. No.
 - C. I don't know.
16. Do you agree to say that mainstream media (The Star) plays a bigger role in promoting One Malaysia concept and instill understanding about the minority group in Malaysia?
- A. Yes
 - B. No.
 - C. I don't know.

Q17 is for readers of The Star/ The Malaysian Insider to answer

17. If you have read indigenous group news before, what is your feeling about indigenous group?
- A. Feel sympathy and more care about the problems of minority faced.
 - B. I think the problem of indigenous is not big deal at all.
 - C. I think the indigenous group issue is troublesome.
 - D. Others. Please specify
-

Part C General question

18. Do you think the news reporting of indigenous group in media would affect readers' in understand more about this minority group? Why?
-
-

Thanks for your cooperation! Have a nice day!

Appendix E

News articles of indigenous group in land and religious issue in The Star in January 2010 to June 2010

January

Article 1

Wednesday January 6, 2010

Orang asli lose bid for power

By ROSLINA MOHAMAD

TEMERLOH: The Temerloh High Court has dismissed an application by two orang asli who sought a judicial review of a local district and land office decision to cut water and electricity supply to a multi-purpose building that was also used as a place of worship.

Judicial Commissioner Justice Akhtar Tahir ruled that the decision to stop the supply on Oct 8, 2007 was proper as the building was erected illegally on land not gazetted for natives.

In his judgment, he said that under Section 6 and 7 of the Aboriginal Peoples Act, the state authority was empowered to declare an area as orang asli reserve land.

“However, in this case, the land or area is not gazetted for the orang asli and as such, the application is dismissed.



Let down: Web (left) and his fellow orang asli listening to Annou as he explains the High Court's decision in Temerloh yesterday. — Bernama

“The decision made by the Temerloh District Land Administrator is proper,” said Justice Akhtar.

The judicial review was initiated by Wet Ket, 59, and his son Yaman Wet, 33, who named the

Temerloh district and land office and the Pahang state government as respondents. They filed the application in December 2007.

Senior Federal Counsel Kamal Azira Hassan represented the respondents while counsel Annou Xavier and Kenny Ng appeared on behalf of Wet and Yaman.

The applicants were accompanied by 10 people in the court here yesterday.

In July 2003, the applicants erected the building, which was also used as a church by 70 Jahut Christians in Kampung Pasu.

They, however, received a notice from the district office at the end of July stating that the building was illegally built on government land.

In Dec 2006, Wet and Yaman lodged a police report and complained to the Government. Following negotiations, they were given compensation of RM35,000 to rebuild the place.

Their application for water and electricity was, however, rejected by the Temerloh district and land office on grounds that it was erected on ungazetted land while the building was constructed without approval from the authorities.

Article 2

Wednesday January 13, 2010

Perak forms orang asli panel to help them progress

IPOH: An orang asli development advisory committee has been set up by the Perak government to integrate the community into the mainstream of development.

“Perak has the second highest number of orang asli in the country, with 54,416 of them staying in the state.

“We want the community to partake in the development taking place in Perak and not be left out,” Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir told reporters after chairing the state executive councillors meeting.

The committee, to be headed by state Information, Rural Development, Poverty Eradication, Plantation and Welfare Committee chairman Datuk Saarani Mohamad, will look into improving the community’s standard of living.

Other members of the committee are the directors of the state Economic Planning Unit, Education Department, Land and Mines Department, Orang Asli Department and representatives from the various orang asli groups.

Dr Zambry said the state was serious in wanting to tackle issues affecting the community such as land, health, education and infrastructure.

He hoped that the committee could work cohesively and identify problems faced by the community, and come up with ways to solve them. Citing land as an example, Dr Zambry said the state would implement certain policies to empower the community.

“We will identify certain areas for them to use as plantations,” he said, adding that the issue of grazing areas for the community would also be addressed.

Article 3

Saturday January 16, 2010

Minister: It’s okay to allow ‘Allah’ use in Sabah and Sarawak

By CHAN LI LEEN

KUALA KANGSAR: Christians in Sabah and Sarawak should be allowed to use the word “Allah” because it has been part of their custom for decades, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said.

Similarly, they must respect the sensitivities of those in the peninsula, who are uncomfortable with the use of the word by non-Muslims, and not use the word here, he said.

“I have been to a church in Sabah and I know that the Kadazans and Ibans refer to God as Allah. The Muslims there are used to it. That is their custom, let it be.

“But when they are in *semenanjung* (peninsular Malaysia), then they must respect our custom here, which means that you cannot use the word ‘Allah’, because people here cannot accept it,” he said, referring to the growing number of people from Sabah and Sarawak who have moved to the peninsula.



Nazri: 'But culturally, you cannot apply the ruling in a place where Allah has always been Islam's God'

Nazri, who was voicing his personal opinion over the “Allah” issue, noted that Sabahans and Sarawakians could still conduct Mass and give sermons in Bahasa Malaysia but should not use the word “Allah” while in the peninsula.

“We must respect each other. When I go to east Malaysia, I have to respect their customs. So when they come here, they also have to listen. That is only fair,” he said, adding that copies of the Bible containing the word “Allah” needed to be changed when used in the peninsula.

The same, he said, should apply to the peninsula orang asli. “They have to use Bibles in English or their mother tongue.

“It is all right to hold Mass in Bahasa Malaysia but do not use the word ‘Allah’. They must use *Tuhan* as in the national language,” he said in an interview.

Although he agreed that the word “Allah” had been long used in Christianity way before Islam existed, Nazri said: “That’s why I say it is all right in Sabah and Sarawak but culturally, you cannot apply it in a place where Allah has always been Islam’s God.”

Asked about the publication of the *Herald*, Nazri said there could always be separate editions for the peninsula and Sabah and Sarawak. “It’s all man-made. It’s not carved in stone.”

On whether it was all right for the Bible to be translated into Bahasa Malaysia, Nazri said there were no laws to stop people from doing so.

“I don’t think it is wrong, legally or constitutionally.”

Nazri said the “Allah” matter had to be looked at from the legal and theological aspects and the customs and cultures of the people, before a wise conclusion could be made.

He also noted that states with the Sultan as the head of state and religion already had enactments barring or banning the use of words such as “Allah”, “Kaabah”, “baitulal”, and

“solat” by other religions.

In Penang, Malacca, Federal Territories, Sabah and Sarawak, the word “Allah” could be used, legally speaking, but then the Government could still impose a ban under the Printing Presses and Publications Act, he said.

Article 4

Published: Thursday January 21, 2010 MYT 2:16:00 PM

Court orders NCR land returned to orang asli

By SHARON LING

KUCHING: There was joy for a group of Iban longhouse folk from Bintulu when the High Court ruled Thursday that they had native customary rights (NCR) to a disputed area of their land within a provisional lease issued to an oil palm plantation company.

In granting their NCR rights to the land, the High Court ruled that the provisional lease over the 1,214ha disputed area was null and void.

It ordered the company, Ladang Sawit Bintulu Sdn Bhd, to leave the disputed area, excise it from the provisional lease and return it to the Ibans.

The judgement was handed down by High Court judge Datuk David Wong in chambers at the Courthouse here.

The Iban plaintiffs led by Tuai Rumah Agi Bungkong had filed a suit in 2001 against Ladang Sawit Bintulu and four other defendants including the state government to seek a declaration of native customary rights over their land.

They claimed that the provisional lease issued in 1996 to Ladang Sawit Bintulu had wrongly included their native customary land.

They contended that there had been no prior extinguishment of their native customary rights over the land and therefore the issuance of the provisional lease was unlawful.

Counsel for the plaintiffs Baru Bian told reporters that the court victory showed that the natives of Sarawak had recourse to justice in the courts regarding NCR land.

“We are delighted because we have judges in the High Court who appreciate and understand native customary rights law.

"This is an encouragement to us as we are dealing with more than 100 cases pending in court," he said.

Agi meanwhile said he was happy and relieved at the court's decision as it meant that their native customary rights had been defended.

Article 5

Tuesday January 26, 2010

Bakun residents ask for fair share of benefits from dam project

By STEPHEN THEN

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MIRI: Some 15,000 people, who were uprooted due to the construction of the RM7bil Bakun hydro-electric dam project, are moving towards "reclaiming" their rights over the area.

They are asking the Government to grant them official rights to tourism and aquaculture projects at the Bakun dam reservoir.

They also want a Bakun Museum built in honour of those who lost their ancestral heritage when the dam was flooded.

The Bakun residents, led by their paramount chief Temenggong Datuk Seri Nyipa Bato, prepared a memorandum of their requests at a meeting last week. It will be submitted to the "highest authority in the state and country" soon.



One voice: Bakun community demanding better deals from the Government with regards to their welfare and needs.

More than 40 senior community leaders in the Bakun and Murum valleys attended the

meeting. Hulu Rejang member of parliament Datuk Billy Abit Joo was also present together with the pemanca and penghulu of various ethnic tribes, councillors from the Belaga district and 31 elders from the longhouses.

The ethnic groups represented included the Kayan, Kenyah, Lahanan, Ukit, Penan and others who live in the valleys.

Also at the meeting were Sinaran Bakun (M) Bhd board members, a company formed by residents of the 15 Bakun longhouses who were uprooted from their original settlements along the Balui River in 1996.

Bato said he was disappointed with the “ill-treatment” of the Bakun and Murum folk because they did not benefit much from the construction of the dams despite losing their ancestral homes and land.

He added they wanted the Government to take heed of their problems and mitigate in problems that have arose because of the projects.

“We have sacrificed so much, so it is only fair we get our fair share of the benefits in return.”

Article 6

Friday January 29, 2010

MP: Register Murum folk affected by dam project first

By
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STEPHEN

THEN

MIRI: The Sarawak Government has been urged not to uproot the Murum people from their ancestral settlements without first solving their citizenship woes.

Hulu Rejang MP Datuk Billy Abit Joo said problems affecting the stateless Murum folk in central Sarawak must be resolved before they are uprooted to make way for the RM3bil Murum hydro-electric dam project.

“If they are uprooted before their birth certificate and identity card woes are settled, these problems may be passed on to future generations,” he said in an interview yesterday.

He said he had asked officials at the National Registration Department to deal with the problem.

“We are preparing to go on another major round of visits to the Murum region. We must visit

the settlements affected by the dam project and register as many of these stateless people as possible.

“We must also visit all the longhouses surrounding the area earmarked for the Murum dam reservoir and make sure all those who have no personal documents are registered,” Billy Abit said.

Among the settlements is Long Urun, a Penan settlement with more than 800 people, many of whom are stateless.

The Star paid a visit to the Murum Valley, located 70km inland from the Bakun Dam, a few months ago and found that the site construction for the 90m-high dam had already begun.

The dam will flood about 30,000ha of the Murum Valley to create a reservoir that can feed water into the generation plant to produce about 900 MWs of electricity by 2013.

Some 2,800 people, including 1,800 Penans, will have to be uprooted from eight settlements in the Murum Valley to make way for the dam.

The Murum dam, located about 470km inland from Miri, is the first of 12 new dams that are to be constructed throughout Sarawak.

February

Article 7

Published: Tuesday February 2, 2010 MYT 12:09:00 PM

Court fixes date to hear orang asli application

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here fixed April 14 to decide on the application by 27 orang asli to review the Department of Environment (DOE) director-general's decision in approving the environmental impact assessment report for the Kelau Dam project in Raub, Pahang.

Justice Datuk Mohamed Apandi Ali set aside the date when the case was called for mention on Tuesday.

Pendor Anger and 26 others, from the Senoi and Temuan indigenous tribe, filed the judicial review application on Oct 9, 2007, naming the DOE director-general and the Pahang and Malaysian governments as respondents.

On Oct 30 last year, they were granted leave by the High Court to seek a judicial review of the DOE's decision.

They claimed that the land involved in the project was passed down to them by their ancestors and that it was where they find livelihood for their families.

They want a declaration that the government, by approving the dam project, has breached its fiduciary duty to protect the Orang Asli.

They are also seeking costs and other relief deemed fit by the court.

The applicants are represented by counsel Kamarul Hisham Kamaruddin while senior federal counsel Datin Azizah Nawawi appears for the respondents.-Bernama

March

Article 8

Thursday March 18, 2010

‘Review land proposal’

■ 2ha per household head not enough

PUTRAJAYA: The orang asli community wants the Government to review the proposal to award heads of households with just 2ha of land for cultivation, saying this is insufficient.

Peninsular Malaysia Orang Asli Association president Majid Suhut said most orang asli had large families and problems would arise when the land had to be split among the children later.

He said the matter had been raised with Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal, who promised to review proposed amendments to the Orang Asli Act 1954 before they are tabled in Parliament in June.



Here you go: A Peninsular Malaysia Orang Asli Association representative handing over a memorandum to Ghazali in Putrajaya Wednesday. Looking on is Shafie (right). — Bernama

“We also want the Government to award titles to those who have worked hard to cultivate any area of land.

“They deserve the title, irrespective of how big the land is,” he added.

Majid was speaking to reporters after a dialogue between the minister and some 2,000 representatives of the orang asli community yesterday.

He said another issue the community wanted the Government to “seriously look into” was representation in the Dewan Negara, which he claimed was not done according to the Constitution.

After the dialogue, Majid and the representatives went to the Prime Minister’s office to submit a memorandum to Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The memorandum was handed over to the Prime Minister’s special functions officer Datuk Ghazali Ibrahim.

Article 9

Thursday March 25, 2010

Orang asli hope to resettle in ancestral land

By CHITRA S. NATHAN

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THE Orang asli of Kampung Sunggala near Port Dickson in Negri Sembilan who were forced to leave their homes during the 12-year Emergency from 1948, are appealing to the state government to let them resettle in their ancestral land nearby.

The only trouble is that the land has now become part of a state forest reserve.

Village development and security committee (JKKK) head Simpan Suda said at least half of the families from the Temuan tribe who originally inhabited what is now the forest reserve had settled in Kg Sunggala while the rest had moved to the nearby Kg Bukit Kepong during the Emergency.

The 50-odd families were asked to relocate by the authorities concerned over their safety from communist rebels.

“We had assumed that we would return to our homes after the Emergency. But now, decades later, we are still appealing to the state to give us due consideration.

“It is the land of our forefathers. We are only asking for about 100ha, enough for us to be self-sufficient,” he said adding that the planned resettlement would also include the villagers from Kg Bukit Kepong.



Basic house: Most of the orang asli in Kg Sunggala still live below the poverty line and only have access to the most basic of necessities.

Simpan said the villagers of Kg Sunggala did not have much to depend on for their livelihood and many resorted to doing odd jobs to make ends meet.

Spanning 22ha, the village has little to offer its inhabitants, who have traditionally lived off the forest.

“There are 18 families sharing the plot — just a little over 1ha per family. Each household earns an average of RM300, below the poverty line, and only two families here have children who have made it past secondary school.

“All we want are the rights to our customary land and the chance for us to be self-sufficient. A larger plot of land will give us the opportunity to increase our income either by commercial farming or harvesting oil palm,” he said.

The forest reserve which was once home to the Temuan here is in excess of 405ha and what the tribe is asking for is merely one fourth of its expanse.

Simpan expressed hope that the state would be willing to grant them rights to their ancestral land, especially in view of the government’s resettlement plan for the orang asli.

“We hope that the state would consider our plight and let us occupy our land again.

“It is our only shot at providing a better future for our children. We have always lived off the land, depending on Mother Nature for our survival,” he said when met at the village recently.

Port Dickson assemblyman M. Ravi who was also present, said he would bring up the matter at the next state assembly sitting.

“They (the orang asli) are the rightful owners of the land. The villagers should be granted a plot of land within the reserve to resettle and farm.

“As the local assemblyman, their welfare is my priority and it should be of equal importance to the state government as well. The orang asli should not be left behind when the rest of the nation is moving forward,” he said adding that the village JKKK had approached him with their concerns six months ago.

Article 10

Saturday March 27, 2010

Second wave of development

By DIANA ROSE

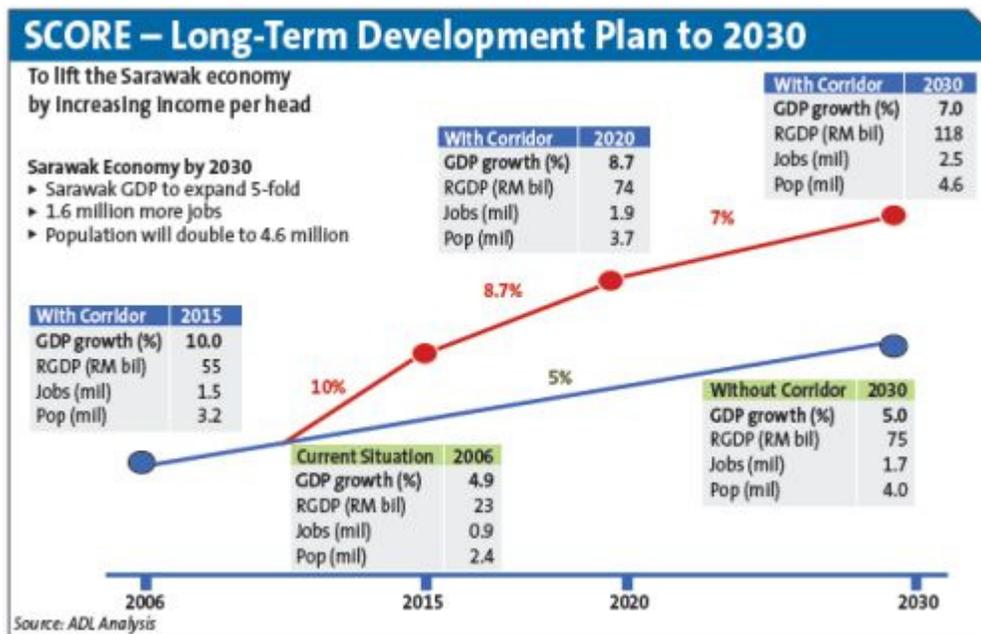
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SARAWAK Corridor of Renewable Energy (Score) is branded as a second major wave of development to hit Sarawak’s shore which some describe as a “tsunami”. With a projected investment of about RM300bil up until 2030, it is a wake-up call for everyone, especially the 607,800 people living within the 70,709 sq km perimeter of Score in the central region of Sarawak.

Many who may be directly affected by the Score projects are still coming to grips with the potential impact it will have on their traditional livelihood and environment.

For those who live in Asap, Batang Ai, Bintulu and Mukah who already have seen some changes, they have come to realise that the development agenda which they had relentlessly demanded at every general election to raise their standards of living, inadvertently comes at a price.

Make no mistake about it – Score is no longer just rhetoric. To date, some RM24bil investments have been ploughed into the state under this banner, while a further RM70bil worth of projects have been proposed. By 2030, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, the architect of Score, said he expects some RM300bil worth of investments to be poured into the area which will ultimately turn Sarawak into a bustling industrialised state and a hub of energy source for Borneo island.



It is envisioned that excess energy from Sarawak will be sold to Brunei, Kalimantan Indonesia, Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia. However, the issue being debated at the moment is how much power will be sold to them and at what price.

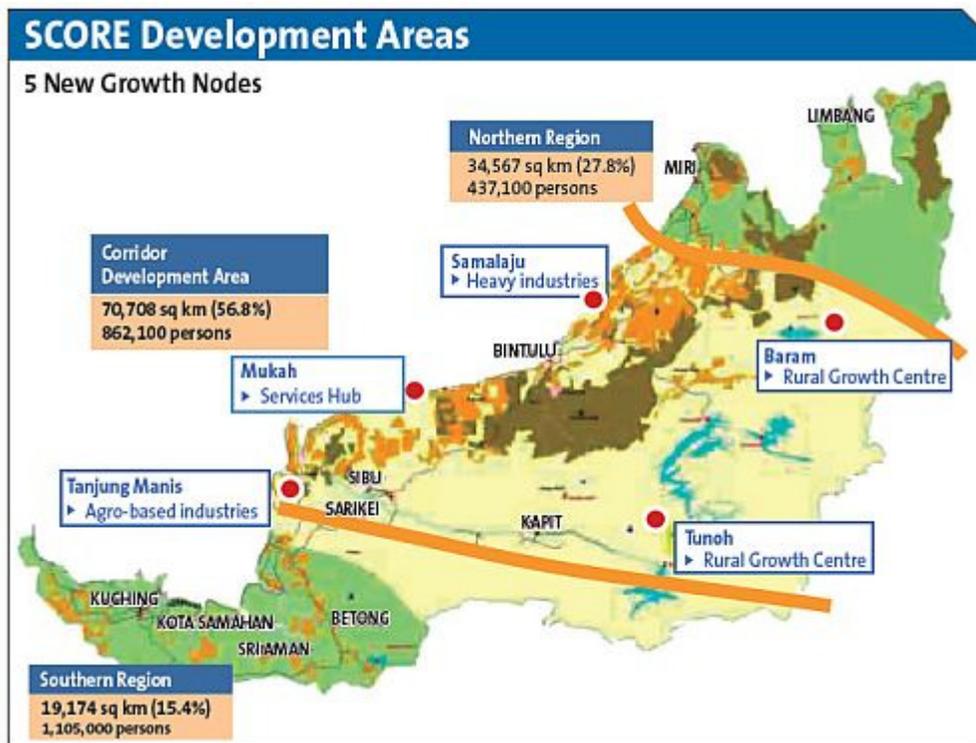
Score was launched on Feb 11, 2008. It is one of the five regional development corridors being developed throughout Malaysia. The core of Score is energy resources, particularly hydropower (28,000 MW), coal (1.46 billion tonnes), and natural gas (40.9 trillion cu ft) found abundantly within the central region.

Ten priority industries have been identified for Score – oil-based, aluminium, steel and glass, tourism, palm oil, timber, livestock, aquaculture and marine engineering industries.

The forecast numbers are rather ambitious; Sarawak's GDP is projected to expand by leaps and bounds to RM118bil annually, providing 1.6 million jobs and doubling the population to 4.6 million by 2030. About 800,000 job opportunities will be directly churned by giant industries within the Score. Sarawak's current GDP is RM23bil per annum.

The main towns that will be immediately affected by Score are Mukah, Sibu and Bintulu, while the five growth nodes are Samalaju (Similajau) in Bintulu (designated for heavy industries), Mukah (smart city & research and development, training institutions will be located here), Tanjung Manis (deep seaport & halal hub), Tunoh in Kapit (specialised in agriculture, reforestation and eco-tourism) and Baram hub (agriculture, reforestation and eco-tourism).

Of all the areas mentioned, Mukah and Tanjung Manis are undergoing massive infrastructural constructions. The first of the smelters plant to move within Score is Press Metal Bhd's plant in Mukah. The RM2.5bil plant has an initial smelting capacity of 100,000 tonnes and total capacity of 300,000 tonnes. Currently, it is powered by Sarawak Energy Bhd's (SEB) grid and the Mukah coal plant which started operations last year.



Bakun Dam

At the core of Score lies Bakun Dam, Southeast Asia's biggest hydroelectric dam. The dam which is expected to be fully operational by next year is expected to initially generate 1,776MW mainly to cater for energy-intensive aluminium smelting plants in Samalaju and a poly-silicon factory in Bintulu. Bakun Dam's total capacity, at this point, stands at 2,400MW.

With that, the recently privatised state utility SEB is expected to be one of the main beneficiaries of Score as it is the main agency that oversees the management of energy resources in Sarawak.

Even so, projections, while they may look good on paper, may change if circumstances change. But as it stands now, it appears to be drawing significant interest in the business community locally and abroad, while at the same time rallying criticisms from environmentalist and social activists. In a nutshell,

Score evokes widely varied emotions from apathy, empathy, confusion, fear to sheer excitement.

Observers will be watching closely if the “people factor” is given due attention, which essentially involves those directly affected by the infrastructural development within Score and the human resources needs.

The people factor is crucial to the success of Score, as correctly pointed out by Sarawak Land Development Minister Datuk Dr James Jemut Masing. Action, he says, should focus on the welfare of the people, especially the resettled “Bakun” people at Sungai Asap in Belaga.

“The Bakun people’s welfare should be tackled first,” says Masing, adding that Asap has become a point of reference for Penans in Murum who are facing similar uncertainties.

The Murum Dam construction is expected to be completed by 2013 and 1,352 Penans will have to be relocated as a result. The state government is currently in talks with the settlers on their new resettlement area.

Government officials say “this time around, it will be voluntary resettlement. We are working closely with the Penan in Murum to make sure that they will benefit from the resettlement.” Other hydroelectric dams planned in the pipeline are those in Pelagus, Baleh, Baram, Limbang and Lawas.

When the Bakun Dam construction was confirmed in early 1990s, 15 longhouses and more than 9,000 indigenous people living in the Balui valley were resettled.

With RM200bil required for industries, SCORE is big enough for everybody in Sarawak to participate

Investment in Industries (2008-2030) (RM bil)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|
| Oil based industry | 60 | ▶ RM20bil market capitalisation of all listed companies Sarawak-based and Sarawakian-owned in Bursa Malaysia –10% of RM200 billion required for industries |
| Aluminium industry | 23 | |
| Palm oil industry | 17 | |
| Timber based industry | 11 | |
| Tourism industry | 8 | ▶ To invite foreign investors to participate |
| Aquaculture/fisheries industry | 5 | ▶ To mobilise local community to participate in the new industry value chains |
| Steel and glass industries | 6 | |
| Livestock industry | 3 | |
| Marine engineering | 1.5 | |
| Others | 67 | |
| TOTAL | 200 | |

The emotional farewell of the first group in 1996 was heart wrenching. Fourteen years have passed but the resettled people of Bakun, who have been moved to the Asap settlement, still seem to have plenty to complain about, indeed a far cry from the rosy picture that was painted then when they were persuaded to move.

According to Masing, many who live in longhouses had to endure power blackouts as they couldn't afford to pay their electricity bills while many young ones had left the settlement due to lack of job opportunities. To add insult to injury, a significant portion of the land given to the people for farming was discovered to be not fertile and subject to flash floods, a major bane for their crops.

The people at Asap fear being sidelined once the Bakun Dam starts operations, says Masing, adding that the government plans to develop fishing and tourism industries within the Bakun Dam, a plan that is being lauded. Priority should be given to the displaced community to tap these opportunities.

"There must be greater awareness among the corporate sector of their corporate responsibility," Suhakam Commissioner Dr Hirman Ritom had said earlier while the state must realise the need to implement human rights norm and legal framework in the pursuit of development and industrialisation with greater community and civil society participation.

In Taib's own words on Score: "... we cannot become a developed nation unless the people have the capacity to participate in the big transformation of economic management which entails transfer of technology in carrying out our tasks from the most difficult one, which is the development of Mukah as a Smart City, to that of providing better quality of amenities to the people. If the administration walks that talk, the historic development agenda of the state should be on the right track."

April

Article 11

Wednesday April 7, 2010

Pahang-Selangor RM9bil tunnel plan officially gets off the ground

KARAK: The RM9bil interstate raw water transfer project from Pahang to Selangor officially took off here yesterday, with a ground-breaking ceremony graced by Sultan of Pahang Sultan Ahmad Shah.

Once completed in 2014, the project is expected to pump 1,890mil litres of raw water from Sungai Semantan in Pahang to the Hulu Langat water treatment facility in Selangor daily via a 44.6km long tunnel, bored through the Titiwangsa mountain range.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui, who attended the event, said the project was essential to cope with the future water demand among industrial, commercial and tourism sectors in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

“The demand for treated water is expected to increase 4.3% yearly and will reach a higher rate in 2015,” he said during the ceremony at Jalan Manchis here yesterday.

He added that the first part of the project would involve the construction of a tunnel, a dam, water intake point, pump station and dual water pipelines.

Chin said the facilities such as the pipelines and the tunnel, which will be the longest and biggest in South-East Asia and the sixth biggest in the world, would be mainly financed by the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) at the cost of RM3.9bil. “The second part will comprise the water treatment plant in Hulu Langat and a distribution system costing some RM4.4bil, to be funded by Perbadanan Aset Air Berhad.

“Work on the two parts of the project is being carried out simultaneously and started on June 1 last year. Completion is expected on May 30, 2014,” he said, adding that work on the tunnel alone would take about 60 months to complete.

The raw water supply project, which is jointly developed by Japan’s Shimizu Corporation and Nishimatsu Construction and local companies IJM Corp and UEM Builders Bhd, is expected to earn Pahang RM70mil in annual income at the price of 10 sen per cubic metre, which is up for review every five years.

Chin also said the Government had also compensated the orang asli who would be affected by the inundation of the Sungai Temir reserve, the Felda Lembah Klau estate and other

surrounding areas.

Article 12

Thursday April 8, 2010

Reserve land to be converted to nursery

BY FARIK ZOLKEPLI

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JOHOR BARU: 160ha of orang asli reserve land in Kampung Simpang Arang, Gelang Patah, will be transformed into a nursery to grow jungle trees.

Johor Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said that the nursery would equip orang asli youth with new skills.

“It will help to generate better income for their family. They will also able to sell the jungle trees to the local market especially in the Iskandar Malaysia area,” he said after presenting certificates to 41 orang asli youth, who took part in building four houses in the village.

Abdul Ghani said that Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) and Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB) are planning to build public recreational parks, which would be filled with jungle trees.

“The orang asli youth should capitalise on the high demand for such plants and trees. I expect the nursery to supply the trees to such parks,” he said.

On the certificate presentation, Abdul Ghani praised IRDA, Malaysia Construction Academy (ABM) and Orang Asli Welfare department on its pioneer train and build course.

Article 13

Tuesday April 20, 2010

Hulu Selangor Orang Asli rooting for Barisan

HULU SELANGOR: It is party time at Kampung Serigala and Kampung Changkat Bintang, thanks to the by-election.

There was a singing competition for the largely Temuan tribe, besides rice and seedlings being distributed to the 350 villagers.

The goodies and activities were courtesy of a group of Barisan Nasional volunteers led by Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal.

The volunteers also organised health screenings for the villagers, who responded positively to Shafie by applauding his speech.

Kampung Serigala headman Husin Awa said the community would be giving their full backing to Barisan.

“Shafie can be assured that we are totally behind him,” he said, adding that most of the development now enjoyed by the people in the village was due to Barisan’s administration.

At a press conference later, Shafie refuted claims by the Opposition that the Government took away land from the Orang Asli and neglected their welfare.

“Don’t just accuse us of leaving them out. The Opposition must also prove that they have helped the Orang Asli,” said Shafie. In Selangor, he said, nothing had been developed by the current state government.

“They have been spending so much of their time conducting political ceramah until the Sultan had to reprimand them,” he said.

The Federal Government, Shafie said, had allocated RM300mil under the National Key Result Areas to raise the standard of living of the Orang Asli within the next three years.

The allocation was to upgrade facilities such as roads and community halls, and to supply water and electricity to Orang Asli villages. There are about 1,000 voters among the Orang Asli community in Hulu Selangor from the 13 villages located in the constituency.

Article 14

Published: Saturday April 24, 2010 MYT 7:29:00 PM
Updated: Saturday April 24, 2010 MYT 7:58:12 PM

‘Choose devt and stability over empty promises’: Muhyiddin

Follow the Hulu Selangor by-election updates on Facebook

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KUALA KUBU BARU: Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin called on voters in Hulu Selangor to choose development and stability over empty promises and lies.

He said the people should think carefully before casting their votes today as one wrong move could cost them the future of their children and grandchildren.

"Many of you may already be satisfied with what you have today, but think of the future of your children," he said when closing a motivation programme involving parents at a school in Bandar Baru Kuala Kubu Baru near here Saturday.

Muhyiddin also called on the people not be taken in by the Opposition's claim that the Government was cruel.

"Haven't we done anything for the people? Of course we are not perfect and there are still pockets of poverty, including here in Hulu Selangor, but that does not mean that we do not care.

"Those are just isolated cases that we have not been able to address," he said adding that the people should choose based the party that could guarantee their future.

Earlier in Ampang Pecah, he said, the Government would continue to focus on helping the rural people although their standard of living has improved so much compared to before the independence.

He said the commitment would not waver although the Government was pushing hard to achieve Vision 2020 to turn Malaysia into a fully development country.

He said the number of the poor in the country had drastically dropped in the last decades.

"The poverty level is now is 3.5% compared to 60% before the independence.

"Even so, we will continue to be committed towards helping rural people to improve their economic standing," he said in a meeting with Felcra participants at Ampang Pecah near here Saturday.

Muhyiddin, however, lamented that some of those who have benefited from various programmes introduced by the Government continued to be ungrateful.

Felcra had planted 249,509 hectares of idle land with oil palm, rubber and padi benefiting 93,472 participants including 3,427 orang asli.

In Hulu Selangor alone, 1,431 hectares were developed for the benefit of over 1,000 participants including 60 orang asli.

Felcra paid RM321.4 million in dividends to participants last year.

Of the amount, RM143.8 million were distributed last year while the remaining RM167.9 million would be paid in March and June.

May

Article 15

Friday May 7, 2010

Freedom to practise any faith

CAMERON HIGHLANDS: The orang asli in Pahang are free to choose the religion they wish to profess without fear and pressure.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said statistics showed there were 13,741 households among the orang asli communities in the state and 1,000 of them were Muslims.

He said 800 of them were Christians, 300 Bahais, 90 Buddhists, 10 Hindus and the rest professed other faiths.



A success: Mohd Noor (second from left), Cameron Highlands MP Datuk S.K.Devamany (extreme left), Yayasan Pahang general manager Datuk Sariah Saad and an orang asli representative at the closing ceremony.

“The Government has allocated RM5.374mil for the Orang Asli Civilisation Development (Petama) programme.

“The youths among the orang asli are the main focus as they are the catalyst in their community’s social and economic development,” Adnan said in his speech to close the Petama 2010 four-day homestay programme held in several orang asli villages in Cameron Highlands district here recently.

His speech was read out by Cameron Highlands District officer Datuk Mohd Noor Abdul Rani.

Adnan said Petama aimed to help the orang asli give priority to their children’s education for a better future.

Article 16

Tuesday May 18, 2010

RM65mil worth of jobs for small contractors

KUALA LUMPUR: The Works Ministry is expected to award some RM65mil worth of contracts in 19 projects to smaller E and F contractors.

Minister Datuk Shahziman Abu Mansor said the projects, worth about RM700mil, had earlier been awarded to Class A contractors.

“Although RM65mil is not even 10% of the total value of the projects, there are still some minor jobs that can be given to Class E and F contractors,” he said

Shahziman also said the 43km South Klang Valley Expressway (SKVE) from Pulau Indah to Nilai would be completed by the end of next year.

“The highway will be opened in stages, with the first 20km ready for use by the end of June,” he said, adding that the stretch would be from Universiti Tenaga National to the interchange with Elite Highway.

Shahziman said the project had involved construction in two orang asli areas, a 13ha piece of land in Ayer Hitam, Puchong and a 10ha in Tanjung Rabok, Bukit Kemandul under Kuala Langat district.

He said compensation had been awarded to 22 orang asli in Tanjung Rabok and 29 orang asli in Kampung Sg Rasau in Puchong.

This was to ensure that no community was marginalised by any development project, he added.

Article 17

Wednesday May 26, 2010

Temuan land suit finally resolved after 15 years

By SHAILA KOSHY
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KUALA LUMPUR: The orang asli case against the Government for acquiring land for the construction of the Nilai-KLIA Highway without paying compensation comes to a close today after 15 years.

At 9am, the Federal Court will record a settlement between the orang asli plaintiffs in the landmark *Sagong Tasi* land rights case against the Federal Government, the Malaysian Highway Authority and United Engineers Malaysia Bhd.

It is understood that a settlement was reached after negotiations with the Attorney-General's Chambers.

The Federal Government, as the acquirer of the land, will pay a cash compensation to the orang asli for the land while counsel for the orang asli will waive all other costs and damages granted by the court.

In 1995, a total of 38.47 acres (15.57ha) was acquired from the Temuan orang asli in Dengkil without paying compensation.

In 1996, the Temuans took their case to the Shah Alam High Court with a team of pro bono lawyers from the Bar Council.

The original defendants included the Selangor Government.

In 2002, the High Court ruled in a landmark decision that the orang asli enjoyed native title rights over their traditional land and that they were to be compensated according to the Land Acquisition Act.

The defendants appealed to the Court of Appeal but lost there too in 2005. They decided to appeal to the Federal Court and got leave in 2006.

By April 2009, the Selangor government had changed hands from Barisan Nasional to Pakatan Rakyat and the new state government pulled out of the appeal, saying to continue

would breach its promise to recognise the land rights of the *orang asal* (indigenous peoples) of Malaysia.

Centre for Orang Asli Concerns coordinator Dr Colin Nicholas said that move placed the other defendants in a difficult position as their argument rested on the fact that the state owned the land the Temuans were claiming.

Article 18

Thursday May 27, 2010

RM6.5mil settlement for Temuans whose land was taken away

By M. MAGESWARI
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PUTRAJAYA: It took 14 years for 26 orang asli families, who had their land snatched away to make way for a highway, to see justice done — the Federal Court recorded a RM6.5mil landmark settlement.

The apex court ordered the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) yesterday to pay members of the Temuan tribe who were forced to leave their homes when the Nilai-Banting Highway was constructed in 1995.

Although the defendants were the LLM, Government and United Engineers (M) Bhd (UEM), only LLM was required to pay the sum under the terms of settlement.

The highway authority has been ordered to pay the settlement to the Temuan tribe, who were living in the Bukit Tampoi area, when their land was forcibly taken.



Sagong Tasi (in yellow T-shirt) walking along KM33 of the Nilai-KLIA Highway with his daughter and other Temuans. The highway runs through where their houses, as well as the Balai Adat and Balai Raya, once stood. — AZLINA BT ABDULLAH / The Star

Chief Judge of Malaya Justice Arifin Zakaria, who chaired a three-man Bench, noted that the LLM would deposit the sum to the Shah Alam High Court for disbursement of the funds to the orang asli families.

Justice Arifin, who sat with Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Justice Richard Malanjum and Federal Court judge Justice James Foong Cheng Yuen, recorded that LLM would pay the full settlement within a month from yesterday.

The Federal Court noted the terms of agreement supplied by the parties — LLM, the Federal Government and UEM through Senior Federal Counsel Datuk Kamaludin Md Said.

Seven orang asli who initiated the suit could apply directly to the Shah Alam High Court for their compensation. They are Sagong Tasi, Kachut Tunchit, Dabat Anak Chabat, Kepal Anak Kepong, Sani Saken, Ilas Senin and Tukas Anak Siam.

The three appeals filed by the defendants would be withdrawn due to the settlement.

According to the orang asli's lawyer David D. Mathew, the settlement was made after his clients had agreed to not seek costs and damages awarded by the Shah Alam High Court earlier.

He also said four of the orang asli who were plaintiffs in the suit, had died.

In 1995, a total of 38.47 acres (15.57ha) was acquired from the orang asli in Dengkil without compensation being paid to make way for the construction of the highway.

Thirteen houses were affected apart from the Balai Adat and Balai Raya. The land had also contained oil palm, rubber, fruit trees and other crops.

Some of the orang asli families are living in the areas on both sides of the highway presently.

In April 1996, the Temuans took their case to the Shah Alam High Court with a team of pro bono lawyers from the Bar Council.

On April 12, 2002, the Shah Alam High Court ruled in a landmark decision that the orang asli enjoyed native title rights over their traditional land and that they were to be compensated according to the Land Acquisition Act.

The defendants appealed but lost in the Court of Appeal on Sept 19, 2005.

They then appealed to the Federal Court and obtained leave to appeal on Nov 21, 2006.

On April 22, 2009, the Selangor government, which was initially one of the four parties named by the orang asli in their lawsuit, had changed hands from Barisan Nasional to Pakatan Rakyat and the new state government pulled out of the appeal, saying that to continue would breach its promise to recognise the land rights of the orang asli (indigenous peoples) of Malaysia.

Speaking to reporters, Sagong Tasi, 79, said he was relieved and happy over the payment, saying that the matter had dragged on for over a decade.

Related Stories:

[Selangor to gazette 25 orang asli villages following landmark decision](#)

[A bittersweet Temuan victory](#)

Article 19

Thursday May 27, 2010

Selangor to gazette 25 orang asli villages following landmark decision

PETALING JAYA: The Selangor Government plans to gazette some 25 orang asli villages by August following the recording of a landmark settlement in the Federal Court for RM6.5mil to be paid to seven Temuan plaintiffs for acquisition of their native customary land.

Its Orang Asli Land Task Force chairman Elizabeth Wong said the settlement yesterday was a landmark one as it recognised the orang asli's right to customary lands.

She welcomed the withdrawal of the appeal by the Federal Government, the Malaysian Highway Authority and United Engineers Malaysia Bhd in re *Sagong Tasi*.

The 14-year-old battle began in 1996, a year after the Government took 15.57ha of Temuan land in Kampung Bukit Tampoi, Dengkil, to build the Nilai-KLIA Highway.

The then Barisan Nasional state government was a party to the suit up until April 2009 when the new Pakatan Rakyat-led government withdrew from the appeal to the Federal Court, said Wong.

She urged the Federal Government to affirm the spirit of the settlement and have more consultations before amending the Aboriginal Peoples Act to limit compensation and size of land ownership.

Centre for Orang Asli Concerns co-ordinator Dr Colin Nicholas said the amount was below market value but it was better than nothing as four plaintiffs had died and the others were old and tired.

DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang expressed hope the settlement would be a benchmark for disputes between the orang asli and Federal and state governments/agencies.

Article 20

Thursday May 27, 2010

A bittersweet Temuan victory

Stories by SHAILA KOSHY, LOH FOON FONG, ZUHRIN AZAM AHMAD, FLORENCE A. SAMY and ZALINAH NOORDIN
Photos by AZLINA ABDULLAH and ROHAIZAT MD DARUS

DENGKIL: It was a bittersweet but crucial victory for the Temuan orang asli folk who were awarded a RM6.5mil settlement in the Federal Court yesterday.

For them, life remains the same as it was not about money; it is a moral victory as their proprietary right to their ancestral land stay was defended after 14 years.

Many were sad as some of their parents whose land was acquired in 1995 have since passed away.

Yesterday, the court recorded a RM6.5mil settlement in favour of the Temuan in re *Sagong Tasi & Ors.*



Happy ending: These orang asli get a RM6.5mil settlement from the Malaysian Highway Authority as their land was taken away for the Nilai- Banting road project in 1995.

Sitting in his hut, 79-year-old Sagong Tasi, one of seven plaintiffs, said: "It is not about the money."

"What is important is we won ... we never gave up," said the father of eight, at Kampung Bukit Tampoi here which houses 69 Temuan families in 49 homes.

The Nilai-KLIA Highway, for which their land was acquired, cut the settlement near the 33rd kilometre into two. Homes, orchards and the community halls were demolished.

Sagong said it was important to leave a legacy.

Article 21

Saturday May 29, 2010

Sultan of Pahang upset with illegal land clearing for cultivation in Cameron Highlands

By NIK NAIZI HUSIN
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CAMERON HIGHLANDS: Illegal land clearing for cultivation has become a big problem in Cameron Highlands that it has prompted a call from the Sultan of Pahang himself.

Sultan Ahmad Shah Sultan Abu Bakar said he had received complaints and assured that the Government would take stern action against the culprits, especially those involved in the most recent case in Kampung Lemoi.

He gave assurance to the orang asli community living there that the issue would be looked into.



We are here for you: The Sultan talking to the orang asli during his visit to Kampung Manson.

Twelve hectares of land on the orang asli settlement in Kampung Lemoi was found to have been illegally cleared and cultivated.

“I have told the district officer (Datuk Mohd Noor Abdul Rani) to do the necessary pertaining to this matter,” the Sultan told the orang asli during his visit to Kampung Manson recently.

He said police would be called to assist, if the need arose, in taking actions against those responsible for the land clearing.

He said there were also some who were given approval by the Government to open up land for cultivation but due to greed, went beyond the total hectarage approved.

He warned that the temporary operating licences of these greedy individuals could be cancelled.

Sultan Ahmad Shah said there had to be proper control on land clearing and excessive development in Cameron Highlands.

“It is a tourist spot visited by people from all over the world, so we do not want the environment to be affected by the illegal land clearing.

“If the environment is not protected, this area will face problems in future, such as disrupted water supply,” he said, while commending efforts taken by the relevant authorities to tackle the illegal activity.

“I would also like to thank television stations for highlighting this issue for the Government to take note,” he added.

Earlier, the Sultan was briefed by Mohd Noor on the new road from Sungai Koyan (in Kuala Lipis) to Lembah Bertam (in Cameron Highlands).

The 79km route is scheduled for completion in August. Work is in progress on the final stretch of 11km.

Sultan Ahmad Shah said that once the road was completed, all buildings next to the road would be vacated.

“I am satisfied with the progress of this project. It is targetted to open by Aug 26,” he added.

The new road will be the fourth access to Cameron Highlands, apart from the routes from Tapah, Simpang Pulai (both in Perak) and Gua Musang (Kelantan).

Article 22

Sunday May 30, 2010

Finally, recognition of land rights for orang asli

THE Federal Court on May 26, 2010, recorded a settlement that sealed the recognition of native title rights for the orang asli.

The Senior Federal Counsel representing the federal government, the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) and United Engineers Malaysia Bhd (BHD) in the landmark Sagong Tasi land rights case agreed to withdraw their appeals on certain terms.

These included the LLM paying the Temuan plaintiffs a lump sum of RM6.5mil for the acquisition of 15.57ha of their land in 1995.

In return, the lawyers for the orang asli, with consent of their plaintiffs, agreed not to claim the court-awarded special, aggravated and exemplary damages, as well as costs.

This brings to conclusion a 14-year battle by the Temuans of Kampung Bukit Tampoi for the

26 families whose land was taken away for the construction of the Nilai-KLIA highway and compensated only for their crops and orchards.

Article 23

Sunday May 30, 2010

A long-awaited victory

By RASHVINJEET S. BEDI
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For the 26 Temuan families who won the RM6.5mil settlement in the Federal Court on Wednesday, the award went beyond its monetary value.

ASK any of the Temuan orang asli folk in Kampung Bukit Tampoi about the *Sagong Tasi & Ors* court case and they are very likely to use the word *berjuang* (struggle).

They say it as if they were involved in a war, but it is probably the most appropriate word to describe their arduous 14-year wait to get compensation for what was rightfully theirs.



Lost land: Sagong (left) showing what used to belong to the Temuans. — Bernama

On Wednesday, the Federal Court awarded RM6.5mil to members of 26 families of the Temuan tribe whose land was taken from them 15 years ago for the construction of the Nilai-KLIA highway.

Their fruit trees, crops, oil palm and rubber trees were all destroyed to make way for the development. So were 13 houses, a *balai raya* (community hall) and a *balai adat*. In short, the Temuan lost their source of income and survival.

Back then, they were compensated for what was on the land but not the value of the land.

So this victory goes beyond the monetary award, say most of the villagers. More importantly, it is about the recognition of the rights of people who were there before anyone else.

Sagong Tasi, 79, who was bemused by the amount of media coverage on the case (especially on the day of the court decision) believes it was their fate to win.

Surrounded by a small group of young people in his village, he recalls the tedious and tiring process of going to court.



Plodding on: Sediah and her grand-daughter Iryana Natalie, 3. Sediah now works as a cleaner earning RM650 monthly.

“But we never gave up and we can now lay claim on something that was ours,” he says, speaking in Malay.

Ilam Senin, the Village Security and Development Committee (JKKK) chairman, is glad that the case is over although he is not entirely satisfied with the award. (The amount is considered to be not as much as the land’s market value.)

The son of Senin anak Angan, one of the original plaintiffs who died eight years ago, he says: “We could have taken the fight further but it would have taken longer. But at least it is recognition.”

And now that the case is over, says Ilam who has been involved in it from the start, the families want to get on with their lives.

He says a *balai raya*, estimated to cost RM80,000, would be built in the village which is located near Dengkil town.

The rest of the money will be divided among the 26 families.

“The compensation will range from an estimated RM40,000 to RM480,000 per family depending on the size of the land,” Ilam explains, adding that he has advised them to be prudent and to look out for people who might want to make a fast buck by cheating them.

Rights recognised

Another plaintiff, Dabak Cabut, 90, who is ill and finds it hard to move around, claims that he could not care less about the outcome of the case, although he never missed a day in court.

“I am happy as long as no one disturbs me. I have enough to eat, what else do I want?” he says.

He adds that he was angry when he was driven out of his land 15 years ago but he has already moved on with life. And yes, he says, he agrees it is good that the rights of the orang asli have been recognised.

This seems to be the most important message resonating among the villagers.

Sediah Binjen, 45, whose house was demolished and she had to move, remembers that her family was not given enough time to vacate.

“Our struggle has not been in vain even though we waited for a long time,” she says.

Sediah works as a cleaner earning RM650 monthly for five-and-a-half days of work a week. On Sundays, she cleans up after the *pasar malam* (night market) and gets an additional RM300 a month.

“The money (from the court case) will be my savings for old age. I have to continue working for now,” she says.

The significance of the case is also not lost on most of the younger generation who were schoolgoing children when it was first brought to court.



Ilam: 'We could have taken the fight further but it would have taken longer. But at least it is recognition.'

Rikino Akma, 24, remembers the time when he used to follow his grandfather to collect jungle produce.

"This has opened the eyes of people. We can go to the courts and get our rights. When the development happened, many people were affected and their source of income was reduced," he says.

While Rikino says the money can be used to improve certain aspects of their life, he acknowledges that they should use it wisely. For some, it would mean replacing the zinc roof on their houses while for others it would be an opportunity to have more land.

"It would not be wise to use all the money to buy material things. The best way to use the money would be to invest in something that can generate more money, such as a business or land," says Rikino.

More needs to be done

Dr Colin Nicholas of the Centre of Orang Asli Concerns says the case has set an important precedent for orang asli claims to their native title rights over their customary lands.

"Cases like this are happening in a lot of places. Many want to go to court because they have exhausted all avenues but there are not enough lawyers to do *pro bono* work," he says.

Similarly, Masjid Suhut, the president of the Peninsular Malaysia Orang Asli Association, says the case only goes to show that their rights are finally being recognised.

"The money is not the most important thing because it will eventually be finished. The priority was the recognition of our rights. If we have no rights to the land, where are we supposed to live – in the sky? We have been around for a long time; before anyone else," he says, adding that people would now think twice before taking land away from the orang asli.

"People used to say that we have no rights to the land," stresses Masjid.

He says that for Bukit Tampoi, the villagers were offered a paltry sum compared with those who owned land adjacent to theirs.

This group had a lot of *semangat* (spirit) and had to face a lot of challenges such as threats, adds Masjid.

“The role of the lawyers who worked on *pro bono* terms should also be acknowledged,” he says.

Masjid also hopes that the Department of Orang Asli Affairs will take note of the case. He claims that they are not very supportive of their court cases and that one high-ranking official in the department even told the Temuan folk they could kick him in the butt if they did win the case.

“My ears were hurting after hearing some of their remarks. And they are supposed to look after our rights,” says Masjid.

Dr Sarjit S. Gill, professor of Social Anthropology at Universiti Putra Malaysia, says the Government should do more now to tackle the plight of the orang asli.

There have been more than 2,000 research papers, publications and theses on the orang asli but they are still lagging behind in many areas and are plagued by a host of social problems, he says.

“Many have no proper savings and are living in hardcore poverty. They want help, but the development we want to bring to them is not what they want.”

He reminds that they can determine the result of 45 parliamentary seats and that it would be important for the Government to discuss their needs. (There are an estimated 147,000 orang asli in Peninsular Malaysia and the majority reside in 869 villages.)

“They have a very important role,” says Dr Sarjit.

Dr Sarjit believes that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is open towards the orang asli and is sure he will do his best to help them even though land matters come under state purview.

Related Stories:

[Finally, recognition of land rights for orang asli](#)

Saturday May 1, 2010

Life after Bakun

Story and pictures by DIANA ROSE
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SPORTING a cowboy hat, checked shirt, heavy duty boots and donning a pair of faded jeans, Kenyah Tony Kulleh, 50, is all brawn and determined to tap the countless opportunities when South-East Asia's largest hydro dam, the Bakun dam, starts full operations next year.

The ex-teacher and entrepreneur hails from Uma Bakah and is one of the 9,400 indigenous people who were resettled 12 years ago to make way for the construction of the dam.

Under the Bakun Resettlement Scheme, their new homes are located in Sungai Asap, Belaga district, with an undulating valley of some 6,000ha entirely bounded by steep hills, state land and privately-owned oil palm plantations and is accessible by timber roads.

For Tony, he understands only too well that those who can alter their mindset to quickly adapt to the modern life are the ones who will survive and thrive.

Most of the Orang Ulu communities, including the Melanau, practice the stratified social structure, which is still very entrenched also among the Kenyah, Kayan and Kajang tribes.



The not so good

Those who have relocated and in the process "sacrificed" their ancestral land for the sake of the dam did so in the name of progress. They involve many groups - Kayan, Kenyah, Lahanan, Ukit or Bhuket and Penan Talun.

For the well-educated Kayan, Kenyah, Lahanan tribes and their agrarian families, their future at Asap post Bakun may not be as bleak that of the Penan Talun and the Ukit.

In the past 12 years, many of the Kayan, Kenyah and Lahanan have been experimenting with planting cash crops in their three-acre plot; each family was given a plot for farming. Sadly, it had not too long ago dawned on them that the land designated for them is far from suitable for any other cash crop apart from oil palm.

The tireless efforts of having planted pepper, cocoa, dragon fruits, ginger and so on had come to naught, laments a Kayan chief, Saging Bit.

“If oil palm is the crop, then we will plant oil palm. But I prefer to plant pepper,” he says as he complains about the land’s tiny size, infertility and its vulnerability to flash floods. He points out that rubber will be a good alternative crop and he is also looking forward to the proposed fish rearing in the Bakun catchment area.

Saging also points out that most of them have yet to receive their compensation and are not amenable to the contra deal offered by the Government.

In addition, for those involved in the Sungai Asap resettlement long houses, they need to fork out between RM50,000 and RM60,000 for an apartment unit.

“We want our old house cost to be paid and our new house to be given free. This is an issue that will be brought up at every election until it is resolved,” he says.

“The people of Asap need to be motivated to move on. (But) let’s settle this old story first. No use looking back. We must look forward.”

Post-Bakun, many are concerned over the survival of the people of Ukit and the Penan. An assessment report jointly carried out by Sarawak’s Land Development Ministry and Sarawak Aluminium Co in 2008, revealed that the issue needing most urgent attention is the survival of the Penan.

Some 300 Penan and Ukit who were resettled earlier have abandoned their Asap homes to move further up river.



Penan children of Asap

Resettlement face a rather uncertain future. They do not know the way of the forest as they were born in Asap and they also cannot compete with other communities especially with their lack of academic background.

They could not cope with the stress of living in Asap.

The report also concluded that mortality rate was higher in these two groups suggesting enormous stress of living at Asap. The attributing factors were social trauma of resettlement and the inability to meet the cost of living and, in some cases, dispirited by their new life style.

Based on estimates, the cost of living in Asap stands at RM1,375 per month. Unfortunately, most of them, especially the unskilled labourers like Penan and Ukit, earn up to RM700 a month. Some of them don't even have an income. This is way below the national poverty line.

The report also revealed a massive migration of young adults (aged 20-29) out of Asap, particularly among Lahanan and Ukit, with the exception of Penan.

The persistent migration has led to concerns on the existence of these communities. Already, there are only two Lahanan and one Ukit long houses left in Sarawak.

There are well-meaning suggestions that basic amenities such as water, electricity, water and the house be given free.

And to solve the scarcity of land and its infertility, it has been suggested that the Government give back the 30% ownership of the 27,500ha alienated to private companies in the vicinity of their settlement that is currently planted with oil palm to the people of Asap as was promised before they agreed to move 12 years ago.

It is hoped that the 5000ha owned by Ekran Bhd, which was left abandoned, should also be returned to the Asap people.

The realisation has set in. State environment advisor Datuk Dr James Dawos Mamit concurs that the Government needs to reassess the Sungai Asap resettlement project.

Moving on

Even so, there are many others, like Tony and Saging, with their “hereditary warriors mindset,” who are taking the bulls by their horns and planting oil palm with a vengeance on any free land they can get their hands on.

Interestingly, the extreme uncertain circumstances of life after Bakun appears to have brought the communities together. The more educated among the Asap people have gathered to set up the Asap Koyan Development Community Committee (AKDC).

State Assemblyman for Belaga Liwan Lagang, a Kayan from Uma Baluy Liko in Asap, is the chairman for this newly-formed body. AKDC hopes to develop a modern and progressive Orang Ulu Regional centre to promote socio-economic growth post-Bakun.

June

Article 25

Friday June 11, 2010

Controlled easing of subsidies

GOVERNMENT subsidies and price control of goods need to be reduced in stages to eliminate market distortions and abuses, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

However, he said subsidy reduction would be undertaken only after taking into consideration feedback from the people.

“I wish to give the assurance that the lower-income group and those who are most vulnerable will continue to be given assistance to mitigate the impact of any subsidy reduction on their cost of living,” he said.

The move, he said, was necessary to enhance competitiveness and market efficiency and to ensure more optimal utilisation of resources.

“I believe many of the difficulties faced by the people, whether in interior villages, estates or the Chinese new villages, can be resolved by giving specific attention to the issues,” he said, adding that disadvantaged groups, mainly those in rural areas, would be given special focus.

There were still pockets of people living without water and electricity supply and with limited access to health facilities, he said, adding that school children have to make arduous trips to school daily.

“We are also considering to grant land titles to the orang asli and bumiputra of Sabah and Sarawak to enable them to benefit from integrated agricultural development programmes

through the agropolitan and contract farming approaches.

“They will also be given better access to infrastructure and public facilities, such as roads, education and skills training,” he said.

Najib also announced that the Government would improve the quality of life of workers in estates and those who are displaced.

“Skills training will be provided especially to school drop-outs from various ethnic groups to enhance their employability,” he said.

Chinese new village residents, he said, would also be provided with soft loans to help them pay for land premiums and renewal of leasehold.

Article 26

Sunday June 20, 2010

Orang asli protest ‘loss’ of land

PETALING JAYA: Several hundred orang asli staged a peaceful protest at Taman Mas, Puchong here claiming that a company had “taken over” their land measuring some 48.5ha.

Their spokesman Alex Hor said the orang asli found out about the matter when they wanted to develop the area for a clustered farming project two weeks ago.

“Several men hired by the company stopped the orang asli, claiming the land was private property and had been earmarked for development,” he said yesterday.

Two days ago, several people began fencing up the area but the orang asli stepped in and stopped them, Hor said.

He questioned how the land, which had belonged to the orang asli all this while, could switch hands.

“Under the law, the orang asli are entitled for compensation for any loss of their land. But they don’t want the money, just their land back,” he added.

He said the group lodged a police report at the Bandar Puteri police station on Friday.

Article 27

Wednesday June 23, 2010

Take efforts to stop land encroachment, state govt told

By ROSLINA MOHAMAD
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ROMPIN: The state government must take the effort to stop land encroachment and curb the opening of logging areas to companies especially government-linked companies (GLCs) in Rompin.

Umno Rompin division chief and Rompin MP Datuk Seri Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis said there had been complaints from the locals including orang asli communities about such activities that were said to have adverse effects on the environment and water catchment areas.

“These companies have allegedly caused damage to the environment and encroached on land belonging to the locals.

“The locals claim that the companies have illegally carried out work on land covering thousands of hectares,” he said after attending the Umno Rompin division delegates meeting on Saturday.

He hoped the state government would take the necessary steps to return the land to the rightful owners and hand over to Felcra or Risda to be developed.

Article 28

Published: Tuesday June 1, 2010 MYT 12:17:00 PM

Remaining 35 families affected by Bakun agree to move

By JACK WONG

KUCHING: The remaining 35 families affected by the Bakun hydroelectric dam project in the upper Rejang River basin have finally agreed to be resettled.

State Land Development Minister Datuk Dr James Masing said they had consented to move to “higher grounds” above the dam site.

“Within this year they must move out or they would be drowned (when the dam reservoir is

flooded),” he added when asked Tuesday if there was a deadline for them to be relocated.

Sarawak Hiro Sdn Bhd, which owns the 2,400MW dam, has sought the approval of the state government to flood the reservoir, which was originally slated for last November.

It had said that the impounding was expected to take eight months for the water level at the reservoir to reach the minimum operating level for tests of the turbine to be carried out.

Once impounded, the reservoir, spanning over Batang Balui, Sungai Murum, Sungai Bahau, Sungai Pelepeh and Sungai Lanau, will have a surface area of 695km - about the size of Singapore - when the water level reaches the maximum operating level at 228m, giving a depth of 194m.

The dam is now expected to generate power sometime next year instead of late this year as earlier planned.

Dr Masing, chairman of the Bakun resettlement committee, before it was disbanded after more than 10,000 villagers were relocated to Sungai Asap resettlement scheme about a decade ago, said the government would compensate the 35 families if they had land and crops in the dam area.

“We will certainly compensate them what the government has promised,” he added.

Besides compensation, the resettlers in Sungai Asap have been given land for cultivation.

The Bakun dam will supply power for use of the energy-intensive industries, like aluminium smelters, to be set up in the Samalaju Industrial Park in Bintulu.

Sources: The Star Online 365 day achieve

Appendix F

News articles of indigenous group in land and religious issue in *The Malaysian Insider* in January 2010 to June 2010

January

Article 1

High Court rules against Orang Asli Christians over village church

January 05, 2010

UPDATED

By Debra Chong



Lawyer Annou Xavier (right) explains the High Court decision to the Orang Asli petitioners. — Pictures by Choo Choy May

TEMERLOH, Jan 5 — A group of Orang Asli Christians here today lost a two-year court battle against local and state authorities, seeking basic amenities at their village church.

The High Court here struck out the 2007 suit by a group of Jahut Christians from Kampung Pasu against the Temerloh Land and District Office and the Pahang state government for disconnecting power and water supplies to their village church in Kampung Pasu here.

“The application for a judicial review was dismissed with cost,” Pahang state legal adviser Kamal Azira told *The Malaysian Insider*.

The amount for cost will be determined by the court later, he said.

Kamal, who was acting for the state and local authorities, said the judge, Datuk Akhtar Tahir, had only given a summary decision in chambers and will supply the written grounds of judgment later.



A view of the church's interior.

The government lawyer added that the judge also made a brief reference to Sections 6 and 7 of the Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954, which supposedly gives the state authorities the power to gazette an area as “Aboriginal Land.”

Pressed to explain the implication of the court ruling, Kamal, who asked not to be photographed, repeated that the law says “the state authorities are the ones to gazette if an area is [an] Orang Asli area.”

Lawyers for the Jahut Christians told *The Malaysian Insider* they plan to file an appeal with the Court of Appeal in Putrajaya next week.

Controversy over the village church, which follows the popular East Malaysian Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB) denomination first erupted in 2003, Annou explained.

Some 70 Christians in Kampung Pasu had pooled together their money to build a small church in the backyard of village elder, Wet bin Ket — with his permission — in July of that year.

But within the same month, the Temerloh Land and District Office, better known by its Malay initials PTD, issued a letter warning that it regarded the church as encroaching on government land and demolished it three years later.

The Christian villagers complained to then Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi who subsequently compensated them RM35,000 to rebuild the church.

But their bid for water and electricity to be supplied to the rebuilt church was rejected by the PTD.



A child in the settlement looks on with the church in the foreground.

In a letter dated October 8, 2007, the PTD explained that the church should not be given water and electricity because it is an illegal structure built on ungazetted land and the church had no approval from the state government to be built, as is required under state law for non-Muslim

places of worship.

Wet, who embraced Christianity in 2000, then tried to challenge the local and state authorities in the Temerloh High Court in 2007, but was also blocked.

Last August, a three-man bench in the Court of Appeal led by Datuk Zainun Ali, unanimously ruled to allow the Jahut Christians the right to challenge the PTD's refusal.

The appeals court also ordered the PTD to pay RM5,000 in costs to Wet, 59, and his 33-year-old son, Yaman.

Counsel for the Christian villagers, Annou Xavier stressed that they will "fight" the decision all the way to the Federal Court, if needed.

"These people are only asking for the basics of livelihood, water and electricity, why deprive these people?" quizzed Annou's co-counsel, Kenny Ng.

"They are the orang asal of this country. We may have the Twin Towers but if we can't take care of these people, it's an utter disgrace, a sad day for 1 Malaysia," he added, making pointed references to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's unity slogan.

Article 2

East Malaysian Christians say will continue using 'Allah'

January 12, 2010

By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal



(Left to right) Pastors Danil Raut, Simon Petraus, and Alfred Tias at the High Court today. — Picture by Choo Choy May

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 — Church leaders representing the East Malaysian Christian community said today they hoped the government would come up with a solution which enables them to continue to use the word "Allah" in their daily worship.

Speaking to reporters after the High Court here set a date to hear the case of Jill Lawrence, a Melanau who is suing the government for confiscating CDs containing the word "Allah", the church representatives stated that the word "Allah" would still be used during Sunday services.

"Before this, there was no problem with using the word for our daily worship. Of course, the Christians in East Malaysia are not happy with the tussle, but we will wait and see what the court decides," said Pastor Danil Raut, who is the president of the Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB) church in

Peninsular Malaysia.

An SIB church in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan was the latest to have been hit by the spate of attacks on churches throughout the peninsula, where firebombs were thrown at some churches.

The latest lawsuit involving the use of “Allah” has set the stage for another court battle over the word.

The country has been gripped by a raging debate over the word since the High Court ruled on Dec 31, 2010 that the Catholic weekly Herald’s Bahasa Malaysia edition had a constitutional right to use the word “Allah” in the Christian sense.

The ruling sparked protests from Muslim groups and has been linked to a series of firebombing and arson attacks against at least eight churches in the past few days.

Besides Raut, other church leaders who were present in court to lend their backing for the latest legal challenge included Pastor Alfred Tias, the executive secretary of the Bahasa Commission of the NECF (National Evangelical Christian Fellowship) and Pastor Simon Petraus, the vice-president of SIB in peninsular Malaysia.

When asked what they thought of isolated suggestions from a few Christian laymen to stop using the word “Allah” in order to diffuse the escalating tension in the country, Raut said that they would not stop using it because it has been used for a long time.

“I am from Sarawak, of the Lumbayang tribe, and we have been using ‘Allah’ for a long time. It is used in our mother tongue. ‘Tuhan Allah’ is our God.

“He has his right to say what he wants, but he doesn’t speak on behalf of all Christians,” he said, referring to a suggestion from a Sarawakian Christian, which was highlighted by a number of newspapers yesterday.

According to Raut, there are currently 10,000 SIB church members in peninsular Malaysia and 250,000 members in Sabah and Sarawak.

Out of the 10,000 in the peninsula, about 1,000 members are Orang Asli Christians.

“There are 36 congregations in peninsular Malaysia. 31 are conducted in Bahasa Malaysia, three in English and two in Chinese,” said Raut.

The pastors avoided giving direct answers when asked on what they thought would be a proper solution to the on-going issue.

“I cannot comment on how the government is doing... they are doing their best to solve this problem. For our part, it is very difficult to not use the word in our worship,” added Raut.

He, however, maintained that the relationship between Muslims and Christians in East Malaysia was not affected as a result of the church attacks.

“We don’t have a problem for East Malaysia. For us, relationship is more important. Our members never react to what is going on right now. Yes, the fear is there but the fear does not overcome the importance of relationship.”

Article 3

Perak sets up orang asli panel to solve woes

January 13, 2010



By Clara Chooi

IPOH, Jan 12 – The Perak government has set up a Orang Asli Development Advisory Committee to better engage with the indigenous community and ensure that they were not excluded from any development in the state.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambrzy Abd Kadir(**picture**) announced today that the committee, to be chaired by state executive councillor for poverty eradication and rural affairs Datuk Saarani Mohamad, would include representatives from both the state government and the orang asli community.

These include the Land and Mines Department director, Education Department director, Orang Asli Affairs Department director, state Economic Planning Unit director, the Tok Batins and representatives from the various orang asli tribes like the Semai and the Temia.

“The state government feels that we need to pay serious attention to improving the socioeconomic statuses of the orang asli community and to ensure that their welfares are well taken care of.

“At the same time, with this committee, at least there is an avenue to link the state government with the orang asli to discuss all the pressing issues faced by them,” he said.

Zambrzy said that Perak had the second largest community of orang aslis with a population of 54,416 or 38.5per cent of the country’s total population or orang aslis.

He noted that the most pressing issues faced by the indigenous people were land matters with many communities refusing to leave their homes to make way for development.

More often than not, despite being offered alternative plots of land at different locations, the community would insist on remaining at their original plots as it was their “tanah adat” or customary land.

“I know of these problems. But we have to find ways and means to come up with the best mechanism to help them.

“For example, we are in the process of identifying suitable land plots for them to plant their crops,” he said.

Zambrzy added that the state government did not want the orang asli to be excluded from development and instead, would work towards empowering the community by including them in the development process.

“We do not want that when there is a development, we move them away to alternative plots. We want them to be involved in the process,” he said.

During the Pakatan Rakyat’s administration in 2008, a similar committee was formed by the state government, called the Orang Asli Taskforce Committee, to engage with the indigenous people and iron out their woes.

The committee was a two-tiered one, with the first level headed by state government representatives and an orang asli liaison officer. The second level comprised of the grass root support groups whose primary duties were to collect data from the orang asli villages and submit them to the first tier.

The committee was mainly tasked with the duties of handing out permanent land titles to orang asli villagers for the purpose of improving their socioeconomic statuses.

The state government had then pledged to give out 3.34ha plots of land to each orang asli family in the state, with 0.12ha designated for the family home, 0.8ha for their orchard and 2.42ha for commercial farming.

The plan failed to kick-off however after the PR government fell in February of last year.

February

Article 4

In Temerloh, a curious struggle to power a village church

February 07, 2010



Village elder Wet bin Ket stands just inside the church in Kampung Pasu, glad to finally have the lights and fan powered up despite the High Court decision. – Picture by Choo Choy May

By Debra Chong

TEMERLOH, Feb 7 – The yellow brick building beckoned like a beacon in the dusty backyard of Kampung Pasu village elder, Wet bin Ket, after a 50km bone-rattling drive from the town centre here.

Little has changed in the Jahut village beyond the slow-moving Sungai Penderas, which separates the Orang Asli settlement from the Malay kampung closer to the main trunk road to Jerantut, since *The Malaysian Insider’s* visit 1½ years ago.

Worn wooden houses dot the green landscape along the equally worn road leading to Wet's house on stilts. The Jahut population is still about 500 and its Christian following remain steady at 70 people.

The singular change in the village is apparent only after stepping inside the low-ceilinged, dirt-packed yellow building. With a deft flick of a few switches, the fluorescent lamps strapped to the wooden beams flicker to life, lighting up the dim interior.

A percussion set sits in a corner; pale blue plastic chairs in another; and a microphone pokes out from the lectern which takes the centre stage, waiting for a speaker to fill the still air with words from the Book.

A few more flicks and the ceiling fans start whirling, circulating air within the one-room hall. Outside, a digitised meter placed high on the yellow brick wall quietly marked out each measure of electricity

"They put that in last November," Wet said happily, noting the puzzled looks. His first bill totalled RM25.

Water had yet to run from the piping inside the church during *The Malaysian Insider's* visit but the 59-year-old had been assured he would receive it within the month.

Wet who embraced Christianity a decade ago, has been locked in a court battle with the local authorities for the past three years in seeking basic amenities for their village church.

Last month, the Temerloh High Court struck out his 2007 suit against the Temerloh Land and District Office and the Pahang state government for refusing to supply the church building with water and power.

"The application for a judicial review was dismissed with cost," Pahang state legal adviser Kamal Azira told *The Malaysian Insider*, relating the judge's decision.

Pressed to explain the implication of the court ruling, Kamal, who represented the state and local authorities said certain sections of the Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954 gives the state authorities the power to gazette an area as "Aboriginal Land".

It was implied that the government has the right to decide how to develop that piece of land, including what can be built on it, to what purpose, and indeed, whether to provide or not that area with basic amenities.



The meter works now. – Picture by Choo Choy May

Kamal noted that the law says "the state authorities are the ones to gazette if an area is Orang Asli area."

And yet, it was peculiar that the authorities had never troubled to force Wet, who lives with his

daughter and her family in a wooden home on stilts a hop away from the village church, to pay rent for using the land.

Their rustic home, furnished with the trappings of modern life include a television set powered by metered electricity which was supplied years ago.

Wet is glad that the church has power now but remains baffled over the Land and District Office's decision to finally supply the church building in his backyard with the basic amenities despite the court decision.

He suspects it is due to the change of name on the application form. Previously, he had submitted his application for water and electricity under the name of the church — Sidang Injil Borneo Kampung Pasu.

The authorities repeatedly refused his request until last September, when on the advice of an official from the Orang Asli Department, Wet put down his name in place of the church's on the application form. The authorities immediately approved the request.

Wet related that he did not initially apply for amenities in his name because he did not want to hide the fact that the building was being used as a church.

The court's decision, which came after the application was approved, continues to raise eyebrows among the Jahut Christians and their Sabah-born pastors.

"We have never seen anything like this in Sabah," said Pastor Ajos Larau, who is based in Mentakab.

He was standing in for his colleague, Kampung Pasu village church adviser Pastor Jamin Singa who had returned to Sabah for a brief holiday.

"In Sabah, there is no problem for a church to get water and electricity under the church's name. I don't understand why the local authorities in Peninsula refused the application until the name was changed to Brother Wet's," said Pastor Ajos.

Controversy over the village church, which follows the popular East Malaysian Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB) denomination first erupted in 2003.

Some 70 Christians in Kampung Pasu had pooled together their money to build a small church in the backyard of village elder, Wet bin Ket — with his permission — in July that year.

But within the same month, the Temerloh Land and District Office, better known by its Malay initials PTD, sent him a letter warning that it regarded the church as encroaching on government land. The church was demolished by the local government three years later.

The Christian villagers complained to then Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi who subsequently compensated them with RM35,000 to rebuild the church. But their bid for water and electricity to be supplied to the rebuilt church continued to be rejected.

In a letter dated Oct 8, 2007, the PTD explained that the church should not be given water and electricity because it is an illegal structure built on ungazetted land and the church had no approval from the state government to be built, as is required under state law for non-Muslim places of worship.

Wet and his 33-year-old son Yaman who has also embraced Christianity, filed for a judicial review of the PTD's decision, on behalf of the other Kampung Pasu Christians.

The struggle to power up a village church is not restricted to Kampung Pasu, however.

According to Pastor Johari who lives about half an hour's drive away in neighbouring Kampung Paya Pelong, the village church too had difficulties dealing with the local authorities in getting basic amenities approved until, like Wet, they switched the name on the application form.

Wet's lawyer, Annou Xavier, told *The Malaysian Insider* he had a filed a notice of appeal last week with the Temerloh High Court, but had to wait for the judge, Datuk Akhtar Tahir, to deliver the grounds of judgment before he could take it up with the appeals court in Putrajaya.

"They are the orang asal of this country. We may have the Twin Towers but if we can't take care of these people, it's an utter disgrace, a sad day for 1 Malaysia," said lawyer Kenny Ng who is also acting for Wet.

Professor Abdul Aziz Bari, a constitutional law expert with the International Islamic University (IIU) in Kuala Lumpur, was equally outraged at the treatment accorded to the Jahut Christians.

"This case raised the issue of right to development. While this may sound too theoretical and may not be accepted by the court one might say that this can be incorporated into Article 5 which protects right to life," he said, referring to the provision in the Federal Constitution.

"We have seen arguments on right to live in a healthy environment basing themselves on Article 5. We have seen how our courts accepted the wider interpretation of property right to cover that of Orang Asli.

"Off hand, I think this case, given that Malaysia has a written constitution, has lots of dimensions. Strange, that in the oral judgment [there is] no mention of the constitution. Only that statute concerning the aborigines," he noted.

Abdul Aziz who has been following the court case on the plight of the Jahut Christians pointed out that the Article 11 of the Federal Constitution also provides the right to religious freedom and that Malaysia as one of the countries who had signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 should properly see to it that the rights of the Orang Asli were preserved.

For Wet, he is relieved he can pray together with his fellow Christians in relative comfort now but is dissatisfied at how the PTB had treated them.

Despite enjoying the basic amenities now, he vows to challenge the court decision as high as it can go.

"If it can happen to me, it can happen to others," Wet said.

March
Article 5

Perak: Stability in sight after two years

March 08, 2010



By Clara Chooi

IPOH, March 8 — Unlike the rest of Malaysia, Perak not only had to endure a global economic crisis but also an unprecedented knock-down-drag-out political battle that has lasted all of the past two years.

Already established as the country's third poorest state in 2006, the results of the 12th general election in 2008 plunged Perak into further uncertainty as sceptics raised doubts about whether the newborn coalition of Pakatan Rakyat had the maturity to revive the once tin-rich state.

To add salt to the wound, a year later, just as businessmen and investors began their cautious acceptance of the Pakatan's reformist stance even in the face of a gloomy economic climate, the state government fell back to Barisan Nasional.

But Perak survived the onslaught of mishaps without sustaining any "fatal injuries" and according to observers and government administrators, the state is on the verge of recovery.

Former Pakatan administrator Datuk Ngeh Koo Ham said that despite popular belief, many investors were actually happy with the change in government after March 8, 2008 and were more than willing to strike up deals with the government.

"In fact, there was generally a great excitement among businessmen when we came into power and many companies, foreign and domestic alike, approached us and told us of their willingness to park their businesses here," Ngeh told *The Malaysian Insider* recently.

He noted that the state government then had decided to relax its policies in order to attract more investments into Perak and return some of the shine to the Silver state.

"What we did was to introduce and kick-start many government initiatives that would help generate economic growth. We were willing to give our longer land leases to possible investors so that they would be comfortable to park their billions here," he said.

Ngeh said that all the major listed companies in Kuala Lumpur, many of which are owned by Perakians themselves, had also expressed interest in starting up initiatives back in the state.

"They wanted to contribute back and we were more than willing to accommodate them," he said.

Ngeh noted that the Firefly negotiation with the state government on kicking off the Ipoh-Singapore route had also been initiated with the Pakatan government during the months of 2008.

"They realised it would be a lucrative route to ply. Not only for the Singaporeans but also foreigners like the Japanese businessmen who prefer entering Ipoh through Singapore," he said.

The route, with a frequency of four flights a week, was launched in July last year.

Ngeh added that the Pakatan government had also been involved in negotiations on the construction of the Ipoh Central Transportation Terminal Hub in Meru Raya, a project that was recently launched by the state's current Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

"Hence, despite the global economic turmoil, we were still doing okay. I cannot say that we turned the state completely around but we were making good progress. The people were confident about the transparency of our leadership and business people were happy to deal with us," said Ngeh.

He said that the government had made efforts to improve the socio-economic status of the people by engaging with all races and introducing friendly policies.

Among the more popular policies the Pakatan government had introduced during its term in office were the conversion of leasehold land to freehold titles at an 80 per cent discount of premiums for all new and planned villages, the distribution of 1,000ha of land to the state's nine Chinese Independent schools, free water (for the first 20 cubic meters), an allocation of RM40.9 million for allowances to religious supervisors and teachers, an allocation of land plots for the Orang Asli and others.

Meanwhile, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (Perak chapter) chairman Datuk Gan Tack Kong said that the political crisis that beleaguered the state for the past two years had not severely affected its economic growth.

"There was a period of downturn in general from 2008 to 2009 due to the economic crisis and everyone felt it. The worst was last year. But things are so much better this year so now we just wait for the 10th Malaysia Plan and the New Economic Model to see what kind of growth we can

expect for the year ahead," he said.

He noted that Perak's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate was expected to be at 5.6 per cent in 2010, up from last year's achievement of about three per cent.

"It is true that for a time, investors were a little worried about the political situation and whether the state was a stable place to go to. But after a while, especially now, things have changed and they are beginning to have confidence again," he said.

He added that foreign investors are generally not as easy to pull in as before but the state government could now rely on attracting more domestic investments.

"One good thing that we can offer them is cheap land and the fact that we still have an abundance of land," he said. Gan added that this was one of Perak's advantage over other booming economies like Penang or Selangor.

"And you can tell that business is picking up from looking at the property market. Compare today with six months ago. Today, property is being snapped up, people are buying again. The demand for homes in Perak has gone up and it is cheap so people are coming in."

Echoing a view that Ngeh had also raised, Gan said that the Perak government needed to focus on creating more jobs for professionals to stop the brain drain that the state had been suffering from over the years.

Ngeh said that with the large number of universities in Perak, like the Tunku Abdul Rahman University and Universiti Teknologi Petronas, the state was not short of talent.

"We have the capacity to create a good quality human capital and what we need to do is to capitalise on this. Create more professional industries here so that these youths can stay and work here — contribute back to the state's economy," he said.

Gan agreed and pointed out that Perak's population growth rate was at an extreme low in comparison with other states.

According to figures from the Statistics Department, Perak, the second largest state in the Peninsular, has the lowest population growth rate at 1.8 per cent.

"We need to re-skill our workers and at the same time, bring our youths back," he said.

Today, however, under the Perak Barisan Nasional-led government and the fact that both political factions have finally decided to stop squabbling, more opportunities are emerging in Perak, Gan said.

In the recent months, the Barisan government announced that it had attracted a whopping total of RM11.6 billion in investments into the state.

According to senior state executive councillor Datuk Hamidah Osman, most were foreign direct investments in high-end industries such as biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

Of the total, RM8.5 billion is by a South American company dealing with iron ore hubbing and palletising, and the other investors include Saamya Biotech (M) Sdn Bhd for pharmaceutical ingredients, Twin Creek Technologies for solar cell production and Sime Darby in the extraction of underground water for consumption.

In a recent interview with *The Malaysian Insider*, Zambry had also expressed confidence that the state's economy would continue to improve in the months ahead.

"We have to be serious in spearheading economic activities," he said.

In showing his commitment to reviving Perak's fortunes, Zambry's administration has also introduced its Perak Amanjaya Development Plan, which had been given the green light by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak earlier this month.

The plan is a comprehensive blueprint set to revive the state's past glory in line with the Federal government's development philosophy.

Zambry said that the plan would also include the six main National Key Result Areas as introduced by the government.

"It is a very big blueprint for the state, emphasising on seven major outcomes, no more outputs, in line with the Federal Government's and the Prime Minister's dream to have a high-impact economy," he said.

Among other things, Zambry has also pledged to eradicate poverty, turn the state squatter-free and improve the socio-economic status and livelihood of Perakians.

In its one-year term, the Barisan government has allocated RM40.5 million for projects to eradicate poverty, RM12 million for flood mitigation projects, RM21.5 million for agricultural activities, RM138.5 million to improve the state's transportation facilities, which includes a RM60 million allocation to upgrade the Sultan Azlan Shah airport, RM63.2 million for tourism projects, and RM11.4 million for local government projects.

According to figures from the state government, the state has recorded a 400 per cent increase in manufacturing investments from 2008 to 2009.

"I do not want to be too optimistic because whether you like it or not, our economy is an open one and we will of course be affected by what is happening around the world. However, I am expecting to have a 5 – 7 per cent (GDP) growth, I hope in the immediate year. With the speed that we are moving now however, I think we can move forward fast." said Zambry.

And with the Pakatan administrators finally agreeing to work together with Zambry's administration for the good of the people, it looks as if finally, after two years, Perak has found some semblance of stability.

Article 6

We are also 1 Malaysia, says Orang Asli leader

By Asrul Hadi Abdullah Sani

March 18, 2010



More than 1000 protesters from the The protest, organised by the Peninsular Malaysia Orang Asli Association (POASM) and the Network of Orang Asli Villages, handed over a memorandum to the PM in Putrajaya today. -

Picture by Jack Ooi

UPDATED

PUTRAJAYA, March 17 — More than 1,000 people gathered today near the Prime Minister's office to protest against the proposed amendment to Act 134 of the National Land Act.

The protestors claim the proposed amendment will only allow six to eight acres of land to be allocated to each Orang Asli (indigenous people) household.

The protest, organised by the Peninsular Malaysia Orang Asli Association (POASM) and the Network of Orang Asli Villages, handed over a memorandum, signed by 12,000 Orang Asli throughout Peninsular Malaysia, to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The protestors, some wearing indigenous outfits, carried banners saying 'Our rights must be protected,' 'Don't abolish our Act', and 'Don't take away our rights, we are willing to be bathed in blood.'

Police stopped the protestors as they began marching towards the front entrance of the prime minister's office. They explained that there were many tourists around.

Police stopped the protestors as they began marching towards the front entrance of the prime minister's office. They then there were many tourists around.

"Put down the banners! You are breaking the law!" the police officers ordered.

"You do not have to talk to us like that! We are also humans. We know the law. Can't you ask nicely?" one of the protestors shot back.



Police forcing the protestors to put down their banners. - Picture by Jack Ooi

They finally agreed to the demands by the police and waited patiently under the hot sun for the prime minister's officers to receive the memorandum.

Half an hour later, Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal appeared and received the memorandum.

The Rural and Regional Development Minister explained that the amendment to Section 134 was in the deliberation process and the government was still open to discussion.

"Currently we are doing a road-show explaining to the public at large — particularly the indigenous people — about the amendments. And the feedback coming from them is crucial to help us accommodate them. There are no closed doors.

"The amendment is not finalised, it is still with the Attorney-General. That is why we are going to table it... possibly in June," he told reporters here.

Shafie also denied that the government plans to only allow six acres of land for each household

"We need to explain to them that actually the indigenous people are entitled to not only the land gazetted but also land for which they can apply. There are no restrictions granted to the

indigenous people on top of what they are entitled to,” he said.

Shafie tried to play down the demonstration and said most of the protestors came to Putrajaya on “vacation.”

“Actually they came to witness the handover of the memorandum and also to have a vacation. They wanted to take pictures of Putrajaya and they also took pictures with me. They came all over and they haven’t seen Putrajaya and only seen it on television,” he said.

Later at a press conference, Pijah Yok Chopil said the government must protect the rights of the indigenous people if they truly believe in 1 Malaysia.

“When Najib became the prime minister, the first thing he did was come up with his concept of 1 Malaysia. Our understanding of 1 Malaysia is that every Malaysian has their uniqueness, making Malaysia into a colourful society. So let us live our own way of life, culture, beliefs but we can be united so do not take away our human rights. Make 1 Malaysia a reality,” said the founder of Network of Orang Asli Villages.

Pijah explained that the amendments do not represent the demands of the indigenous people.

“ For us, land is everything. Land is not for living and income but our land represents everything. It is for culture, beliefs, knowledge, and our history. Our way of life is our identity. We are not greedy but what we are demanding is our right even though we have been labelled as a society that migrates from one place to another. That is not true.

“Every group of indigenous people lives as a group in one area. So even though we move from one place to another it is within our land.

“We find that the amendment does not consider the desire of the indigenous people and is not accordance with the spirit of 1 Malaysia which emphasised the different races in the country,” she said.

She also criticised the government for neglecting the Orang Asli.

“For almost 53 years of independence but many of our villages do not have necessary necessities such roads, electricity and many more. Many of our lands have been taken so easily causing us to be poor. Actually we are not poor but very rich. We are the richest people in Malaysia. We have land and resources. That is why our people have never begged for money or lived on the streets. Even though we do not drive Mercedes, we are very rich.

But I am afraid that in five years time that this will happen if the amendments are approved,” she said.

Pijah added that the “air-conditioned” ministers must listen to the community.

“The ministers talk like that because they live in air-conditioned buildings but we living in the villages know the problems facing us. I believe that those facing problems know the solution to their problems. So if the government wants to help then they should listen to us,” she said.

Article 7

BN leader tells region that Malaysia takes care of its indigenous peoples best

March 27, 2010

MANILA, March 27 — Malaysia is the best example in the Asia-Pacific region in handling the indigenous peoples’ rights, Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians’ Conference on Environment and

Development (APPCED) secretary-general Datuk Dr Marcus Mojigoh said.

He said Malaysia adopted a proactive approach in taking care of their rights through various programmes including the eradication of poverty and illiteracy as provided for under the Federal Constitution and Vision 2020.

Mojigoh, who is the Malaysian member of parliament for Putatan and secretary-general for United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko) , said the Malaysian government also recognised the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with regard to the rights of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children.

This was evidenced by the government’s seriousness in dealing with the plights of the Orang Asli community and the indigenous peoples of Sabah and Sarawak, he said when presenting a paper titled “Indigenous Peoples’ Cultural Identity and Challenges Posed by Development” in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar on Indigenous Peoples, here today.

Mojigoh said government policies, among others, focused on concerted development in rural areas to help uplift the living standards of indigenous peoples.

“We care for them from womb to grave. We have a lot of programmes for them.

For example, housing, schools and healthcare facilities are built close to the villages of indigenous people so that they are not forced to move to urban areas.

“As a result, mortality rates have dropped and poverty is being alleviated, and through education, they have greater control of their lives,” he said.

Mojigoh said many of them had grasped the opportunities afforded by education and at the same time, respect and follow the culture of their villages, proving that modern life can be compatible with traditional ways.

Apart from helping the Orang Asli in Peninsula Malaysia, he said the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was also going all out to develop the rural areas of Sabah and Sarawak “where most of the Indigenous peoples are found”.

He said based on statistics provided by the Department of Orang Asli Affairs (JHEOA), at present there were 141,230 Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia, with Pahang having the most number with 50,792, followed by Perak with 40,856 and Selangor with 15,210.

In facing various challenges ahead, Mojigoh proposed that the responsibility for developing the Orang Asli should not be left solely on the JHEOA.

Instead, a mutli-agency approach should be adopted, with a special Orang Asli unit be set up in each of these agencies to attend to the social and economic needs of the Orang Asli, he said.

As for the indigenous peoples of Sabah and Sarawak, he said one of the biggest challenges for the government was to resolve the dispute or conflicts over land and resources.

Mojigoh, who was representing Malaysia in the seminar, said despite the existence of laws protecting the rights to land in Sabah and Sarawak, “in practice, the state has been able to alienate large tracts of land for logging, development projects and commercial purposes”.

He said the conflict could be traced back to the dual legal regimes for land that were followed prior to independence — a formal set of codified laws and another informal set of laws based on customary practices of indigenous communities. — Bernama

Article 8

Outsiders interfering in Orang Asli land

issues, says Shafie

March 30, 2010

KUALA LUMPUR, March 30 — Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal has not discounted the possibility of outsiders trying to interfere and take advantage of the Orang Asli (indigenous people) land issue.

Shafie said to avoid such interference, the ministry was taking necessary steps and initiatives to amend the Orang Asli Act 1954 to ensure the Orang Asli community's welfare.

"We have formed a focus group committee which includes Orang Asli and experts in Orang Asli affairs to hear their views, opinion and recommendations," he told the Dewan Rakyat when answering a question by Datuk Ismail Kasim (BN-Arau) who wanted to know if there was outside interference in the Orang Asli land issue.

Shafie said the ministry was still negotiating requests from the Orang Asli community with regard to land because it involves forest reserves, rivers, beaches and Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

The Orang Asli community had wanted the Government to review a proposal to award heads of households with just 2 acres of land for cultivation.

Orang Asli tribes have long complained of being forced from state-owned land to make way for development and claimed that they deserved ownership of the land because their ancestors settled there thousands of years ago. — Bernama

April

Article 9

Battle for Orang Asli votes in full swing

April 19, 2010

By Neville Spykerman



KUALA KUBU BARU, April 19 — Although just numbering over 1,000 voters, the Orang Asli community here is reaping benefits from the Hulu Selangor by-election.

The calm serenity of Kampung Orang Asli Serigala, one of 13 such villages in the constituency, was shattered today when an army of 'Samaritans' turned up, bearing 'aid'.

Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal brought the 'entourage' which included health workers, officials from the Department of Orang Asli Affairs and volunteers in Barisan Nasional (BN) garb.

The pre-arranged community programme included a health screenings and handouts.

Villages from the Temuan tribe in Kampung Serigala and Kampung Changkat Bintangn, received basic staples including rice and seeds for plants after listening about the virtues of BN and its candidate.

Shafie stressed that BN was a responsible government which did not discriminate against any race and had not neglected the 150,000 Orang Asli in the Malay peninsula, who are animists, Muslims and Christians.

He also mentioned the government did not restrict other religions from expanding.

“Millions of ringgit have been spent to help other religion and their places of worship, including Christians and Hindus.”

Under BN which has ruled since Merdeka in 1957, four Orang Asli are today doctors, while others have become lecturers, he said.

He pointed out, they even had their own representative in Parliament with the appointment of Mohd Olian Abdullah as an Orang Asli senator.

He touched on the issue of tribal rights and land - an issue which is of most concern to the community.

He promised the federal government was addressing the problem and laws were being amended so their land can be gazetted.

His promise was welcomed not only by village Batin (head) Husin Awa but Batin Alam Supah of Kampung Hulu Tamu, who had come all the way from Batang Kali.

Supah, 43, said there was nothing in the law now to stop anyone from seizing their land.

‘It has happened in my village and there is nothing we could do about it. We demanded for compensation but received nothing.’

Despite their plight, Supah said most in his village would vote for BN because of development they had brought.

Likewise in Kampung Serigala, villager Abu Ali said the community is “100 per cent” behind BN.

“We have running water, electricity and roads because of them.” said the 43-year-old. rubber tapper.

However a younger villager Faizam Bahsupit revealed another reason.

The odd job worker said most in Kampung Serigala will vote for BN because they were told to do so by the Orang Asli Affairs Department.

“They told us to and we will follow.” said the 24-year-old who finds work in Ipoh.

Article 10

DPM says will do more for rural folk

April 24, 2010



HULU SELANGOR, April 24 — The Barisan Nasional (BN) government will step up efforts to help rural people although it has succeeded in improving their standard of living since independence, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

He said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak would ensure that the nation achieve Vision 2020 and would not neglect the rural poor.

“Our commitment to help the poor does not stop. We don’t want the rural people to be trapped in a poverty cycle. Since independence 53 years ago, our poverty level has dropped from 60 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

“This may be a world record but some rural people are still not thankful for this,” he said in a meeting with Felcra participants at Ampang Pecah here today.

Muhyiddin said Felcra had planted 249,509 hectares of idle land with oil palm, rubber and padi benefiting 93,472 participants including 3,427 Orang Asli.

In Selangor, 5,516 hectares involving 4,119 participants were developed while in Hulu Selangor, 1,431 hectares were developed for the benefit of over

1,000 participants including 60 Orang Asli.

Felcra paid RM321.4 million in dividends to participants last year.

Of the amount, RM143.8 million were distributed last year while the remaining RM167.9 million would be paid in March and June.

He said the BN government would continue with the agenda to uplift the status of rural people via the 1 Malaysia concept. — Bernama

Article 11

Felcra settlers ‘reminded’ of BN’s contributions

April 25, 2010



Muhyiddin (centre) with other BN leaders showing the 1 Malaysia sign. - Picture by Choo Choy May



By Neville Spykerman

KUALA KUBU BARU, April 24 — With less than 24 hours to go, Barisan Nasional (BN) today continued their tried and tested strategy of doling out “gifts” to voters as a reminder of their “generosity”.

Today 675 settlers, including 60 Orang Asli from Hulu Selangor collectively received almost RM168 million in dividends from the Federal Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (Felcra) Berhad.

Before receiving their mock cheques the elderly settlers, who were bussed in to the Pelasari Agriculture site here from Felcra schemes in Lembah Bernam and Sungai Cho, had to listen to why they had to continue supporting BN.



[The crowd getting their food at the function. - Picture by Choo Choy May](#)

The hard sell was delivered by Umno’s Pasir Salak MP Datuk Tajuddin Abdul Rahman followed by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The deputy prime minister reminded the settlers that former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir once said that Malays easily forget but he appealed to them to vote to ensure further development for the next generation.

“Don’t forget, your children and grandchildren, ” he said adding that FELCRA is a special initiative.

Muhyiddin said there is no other scheme outside the country, which he is aware of, where the government is prepare to develop vacant land and make it viable for rural communities.

“This is a manifestation of BN’s proactive commitment especially to rural areas communities,” he said.



Muhyiddin addressing the crowd. - Picture by Choo Choy May

Earlier Tajuddin, who is FELCRA chairman told the settlers that they were being “briefed on their responsibilities” for tomorrow.

“This is so you will be guided to make the right decision which will be meaningful to the generation of settlers,” he said.

He pointed out that nearly 100,000 nationwide, including 3,427 Orang Asli had benefitted from FELCRA schemes which to date includes the development of 249,509 hectares of palm oil, rubber and padi fields.

He said the developments collectively was worth RM12 billion.

He also reminded the settlers that FELCRA schemes had also provided, roads, schools, Mosques and housing to them and their families.

Tajuddin also urged the settlers to continue to vote for BN to ensure continued development.

May

Article 12

Orang Asli NGO submits protest memo over land rights

May 20, 2010

PETALING JAYA, May 20 — Jaringan Kampung Orang Asli Semenanjung Malaysia (JKOASM), a non-governmental organisation representing indigenous people in Peninsular Malaysia, today submitted a protest memorandum to the Rural and Regional Development Ministry concerning land rights of the community.

JKOASM co-ordinator Tijah Yok Chopil said the memorandum was to protest the government’s policy of awarding land titles pertaining to native customary land, which was passed on Dec 4 last year.

“The government only focused on implementing the policy but not on getting the views of the Orang Asli at various levels. What was done were only campaigns to make the Orang Asli accept the policy,” she told a press conference here.

She said the memorandum was earlier handed over to the ministry in Putrajaya and was received by a ministry official.

Tijah added that JKOASM also rejected the findings of a workshop held on April 6 to review the policy and any amendments to be made to the Orang Asli Act 1954, scheduled to be tabled in Parliament in June.

She said JKOASM, which represents some 30,000 Orang Asli in six states — Perak, Pahang, Selangor, Johor, Negri Sembilan and Malacca — wanted any policies targetted at the Orang Asli to put the community's interest first in line with the 1 Malaysia concept. — Bernama

Article 13

Orang Asli get RM6.5m in landmark case

UPDATED @ 12:44:21 PM 26-05-2010

By Asrul Hadi Abdullah Sani

May 26, 2010



[The Orang Asli plaintiffs celebrate the settlement together with their lawyers and supporters at the Putrajaya Court Complex May 26, 2010.](#)

PUTRAJAYA, May 26 — The Federal Court today recorded a RM6.5 million settlement for Orang Asli plaintiffs in a landmark land rights case.

The sum is to be paid by Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia (LLM) — on its own behalf as well as that of the Federal Government and United Engineers Malaysia Bhd (UEM) — to the Orang Asli applicants.

The case involved the forcible acquisition of Orang Asli land in Dengkil, Selangor for the construction of the Banting-Nilai highway in 1995. A total of 15.57 hectares were acquired from the Temuan-Orang Asli without compensation.

The plaintiffs in the case are Sagong Tasi, Kachut Tunchit, Dabat Chabat, Kepal Kepong, Sani Saken, Illas Senin and Tukas Siam.

In 1996, with the help of a team of pro bono lawyers from the Bar Council, led by Datuk Dr Cyrus Das, the Temuans fought the case in the Shah Alam High Court. The original defendants also

included the Selangor government.

In 2002, the High Court ruled that the Orang Asli enjoyed native title rights over their traditional lands and they were to be compensated according to the Land Acquisition Act. The defendants appealed the decision, but the Court of Appeal in 2005 upheld the ruling of the High Court.

A subsequent appeal was then made to the Federal Court, which granted the defendants leave in 2006.

However, in April 2009, the now Pakatan Rakyat Selangor government pulled out of the Federal Court appeal, in keeping with its promise to recognise the land rights of the Orang Asli .

After negotiations with the Attorney-General's Chambers, both sides have agreed to a settlement. LLM, as the acquirer of the land will pay cash compensation to the Orang Asli for the land taken, while the Orang Asli lawyers will waive all other costs and damages granted by the court.

As part of the settlement, LLM must deposit the payment of RM6.5 million at the Shah Alam High Court within one month from today.



The 26 families affected by the forcible evacuation can then claim the compensation from Shah Alam High Court, based on the amount of land that was taken from them.

Outside the courtroom, Sagong Tasi (**right**) was delighted and said he was very satisfied with settlement.

"I am really happy after waiting for 14 years. I would not have been satisfied if the case was not settled; now my heart is at peace.

"I am now old, can't see and can't walk comfortably. I am really thin. Now that I have the money, I don't know what to do. I don't know if I want to buy a new house and maybe marry," said the 79-year-old man while laughing with the reporters.

Selangor state executive councillor Elizabeth Wong said she hoped the landmark case would make the government reconsider planned amendments to the Orang Asli Act.

"With this landmark decision, I think the federal government has to rethink its current rules or process to amend the Orang Asli Act.

"Right now, there is an effort to amend the Act which would limit the kind of quantum that would be made [and] the size of land that would be given out as compensation.

"[This was] opposed to the customary land that they should be accorded to. So the decision of

the federal government to amend the Orang Asli Act should not go against the decision of the court in this case,” she said

Article 14

Sibu result reflects growing Christian vote

By Debra Chong

May 28, 2010



DAP made a special appeal to the Christian voters in Sibu. — file pic

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28 — DAP’s surprise win in the recent Sibu by-election was the latest message being sent to the Najib administration that it needs to buckle down and deal with the “Allah” issue sooner rather than later.

The party made a special appeal to the Christian voters, citing the need to prevent Putrajaya from regulating the ways and language of worship for non-Muslims, after a landmark court ruling on Dec 31 that allowed the word “Allah” to be used by all.

The rise in a conscious Christian vote came after churches in Muslim-majority Malaysia reported a growth spurt, and leading the pack was the 82-year-old Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB), an evangelical movement that worships mainly in Bahasa Malaysia, the national language.



An SIB churchgoer reads from a Bahasa Malaysia Bible, which contains the word “Allah”. — Picture by Choo Choy May

Its sphere of influence is growing fast, particularly among the Orang Asli tribes in the Malay peninsula, said the Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM), an umbrella body that represents voices from both the orthodox churches and evangelical groups.

CFM general secretary Tan Kong Beng credits SIB's growing appeal to "cultural affinities" between the local indigenous community and those from the Borneo interior.

First set up in Sarawak in 1928 and regarded as a relatively young church, the SIB has been making inroads into Peninsular Malaysia in the last two decades.

Some 30 SIB congregations have been set up in the peninsula to date, with more on the way.

Tan sees the SIB evangelists from Sabah and Sarawak to be more empathetic with the Orang Asli groups and so better able to build a closer rapport with the locals.

"Urban West Malaysians are very different from the Orang Asli," Tan told *The Malaysian Insider*.

He explained that English — commonly used in the city and town churches — proved a challenge to those living in the rural areas.

The Bumiputera generally speak in their own native tongues, or the national language with outsiders, he said.



The SIB congregation in Shah Alam consists mainly of youths from Sabah and Sarawak. — Picture by Choo Choy May

The SIB community in neighbouring Shah Alam have been making regular visits to a remote Orang Asli village the next state over for the past few months, its pastor Richard Samporoh told *The Malaysian Insider*.

The church has a dedicated Orang Asli ministry, made up mainly of young working adults and university students who visit the tribespeople and provide a range of social-welfare services, such as basic health checks and free tuition classes, making the indigenous more receptive towards the church.

But even as the church expands, so have its problems.

SIB church leaders from both sides of the South China Sea complained of the home ministry's increasingly heavy-handed treatment towards the church and its members, prompting them to file several lawsuits against the government.

Earlier this year, a group of Orang Asli Christians in Pahang sued the government for refusing to supply water and electricity to their village church.

The Jahut from Kampung Kubang Pasu lost the case at the Temerloh High Court but were appealing the decision.

Next week, the High Court here will attend to a suit filed by Sarawakian SIB member, Jill Ireland Lawrence Bill, who sued the home ministry for seizing her personal religious books and CDs, allegedly because they contained the word "Allah", which may "confuse" Muslims.

Pastor Jerry Dusing, who heads the Sabah SIB, said the confiscation of Christian books remains

a problem in Malaysia.

He, too, has filed a similar suit against the government for confiscating an imported shipment of Malay Bibles three years ago. The court will hear his case later next month.



Samporoh conducts worship in Bahasa Malaysia. — Picture by Choo Choy May

Pastor Danil Raut, president of SIB Semenanjung, related that the indigenous tribes in Sabah and Sarawak have been using the controversial “A” word in their worship since before Independence.

His fellow SIB member, Alfred Tais, who also sits on the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) committee, explained that the Bumiputera Christians were upset because they perceived the government’s restrictive policies as a violation of the Federal Constitution and the terms laid out in the agreements for the Borneo states to join the peninsula to form Malaysia.

The ruling Barisan Nasional government had tried to play down the issue, only to have it backfire on them, as seen by the way Sibü — where over half the electorate were Christian — voted earlier this month.

The secular DAP, which had been placed as the underdog in that by-election, had mounted an aggressive campaign, arguing the right of non-Muslims to use the “A” word.

“We’re not creating it to be a hot topic but... we can’t control public sentiment,” Dusing told *The Malaysian Insider* just before the polls, highlighting Sibü’s extraordinarily large Christian voter population.

“To us it is a hindrance to be able to practise our religion freely. The Christian community is concerned that our Bible is placed under internal security. Books that teach positive religious values placed under restrictions.

“We hope the government will take a sensible attitude towards this problem,” he said.

June

Article 15

Orang Asli: poverty to be reduced to zero by 2020

June 23, 2010

KUALA LUMPUR, June 23 — The Rural and Regional Development Ministry has targeted to reduce the number of poor Orang Asli heads of household from 13,642 to 3,410 by the end of the 10th Malaysia Plan period in 2015, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said various measures would continue to be implemented to reduce the figure to zero by 2020.

“So far, 166 farms totalling 23,945 hectares have been developed. Besides, 2,320 hectares of Orang Asli land have also be cultivated with cash crops such as maize, sweet potato, banana,

pineapple and lemon grass.

“Furthermore, 2,200 Orang Asli heads of household have been provided with agricultural inputs with an allocation of RM6.6 million in a government effort to ease the livelihood of the Orang Asli community,” he said when winding up debate on the 10th Malaysia Plan for his ministry.

Mohd Shafie said the ministry also gave special emphasis to the educational development of the Orang Asli whereby 212 kindergartens and 93 schools had been established for Orang Asli children.

He said two skills training centres had been set up, in Paya Bungor, Pahang, and Damansara Damai, Selangor, to train 150 Orang Asli youths every year to enable them take up employment.

He also said that to change the mindset and enhance the leadership qualities of the Orang Asli, 175 leadership courses had been provided last year for Orang Asli “Tok Batin” (headmen) and members of village development committees.

Mohd Shafie said that during the Ninth Malaysia Plan period (2006-2010), RM377.3 million had been allocated for the development of the Orang Asli, of which 40 per cent or RM150 million was for construction of basic infrastructure.

He also said that under the Economic Stimulus Package, RM290 million more had been allocated to provide clean water, village roads and house aid programmes.

“It is estimated that some 15,000 families or 75,000 Orang Asli will benefit from these development programmes,” he said. — Bernama

Article 16

Najib plays it safe on subsidies

UPDATED @ 03:38:02 PM 10-06-2010

By Clara Chooi

June 10, 2010



KUALA LUMPUR, June 10 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak treaded carefully when addressing the thorny subject of subsidy removals during his 10th Malaysia Plan speech in Parliament today and without revealing details, merely gave assurance that those in the low income bracket would not be affected.

The prime minister said in his speech that the need to remove subsidies was one of the key points in heading towards a more inclusive socioeconomic development, one of the five major strategic thrusts enshrined in the plan.

He noted that to enhance competitiveness and market efficiency as well as ensure a more optimal utilisation of resources, price controls and subsidies need to be reduced in stages.

“This is to eliminate market distortions and abuses,” he said when reading out his 111-paragraph speech.

His words received thumps of approval from Barisan Nasional representatives in the House.

Najib then assured the House that any subsidy reduction would only be undertaken after taking into consideration feedback from the people.

"I wish to give the assurance, that the lower income group and those who are most vulnerable will continue to be given assistance to mitigate the impact of any subsidy reduction on their cost of living," he said.

According to the plan, the government hopes to cut its subsidy bill to RM15.7 billion in 2015 from RM18.3 billion this year.

Najib said that to ensure those in the lower income bracket would not be further burdened, the 10MP would focus on efforts to improve income levels and the quality of lives of those in the bottom 40 per cent of the household income group.

The Bumiputeras, he added, made up 73 per cent of the 2.4 million households in the group.

"The Government is cognisant of its responsibilities and commitments arising from the mandate given by the rakyat towards ensuring social justice.

"I believe many of the difficulties faced by the rakyat, whether in interior villages, estates or the Chinese new villages, can be resolved by giving specific attention to the issues," he said.

Najib said focus would be given to the disadvantaged groups, especially those living in the rural areas of Malaysia.

"There are still pockets of people living without electricity and water supply, and with limited access to health facilities. There are school children who have to make arduous daily trips to schools.

"I assure you that we will address issues of the less-fortunate and free them from the poverty trap. I want to ensure that the prosperity, resulting from the country's development, will be enjoyed by all Malaysians," he asserted.

The government, Najib said, would intensify the implementation of economic programmes and the provision of basic economies.

"We are also considering [granting] land titles to the Orang Asli and Bumiputeras of Sabah and Sarawak. This will enable them to benefit from integrated agricultural development programmes through the agropolitan and contract farming approaches. They will also be given better access to infrastructure and public facilities, such as roads, education and skill training," he said.

Najib also announced that the government would undertake measures to improve the quality of life of workers in estates as well as displaced estate workers.

"Water supply will be provided to 182 estates, up to 1,000 acres in size and located less than five kilometres from the water mains, costing RM109 million.

"Skills training will be provided especially to school drop-outs from various ethnic groups, to enhance their employability," he said.

Those interested to venture out into small businesses, he added, would be given access to AIM and Tekun micro-credit facilities.

"This will help to address urban poverty. The loan scheme will be packaged together with entrepreneurship training to develop their capabilities in areas such as financial management, preparation of business plans, marketing and promotion," he said.

Najib said that residents in the Chinese new villages would also be granted assistance, by being able to apply for soft loans to help them pay for their land premiums and renew leasehold titles.

"The loans will be channelled through Bank Simpanan Nasional and an initial fund of RM100 million will be provided," he said.

Currently, there are about 280,000 households living in these new villages.

Sources: The Malaysian Insider news website

Appendix G
Faculty of Art and Social Science

Research Project Evaluation Form

Supervisor/Reviewer : _____

Student's Name : _____

Student ID : _____

Programme : _____

Research Project Title:

Instruction:

Please score each descriptor based on the scale provided below:

(1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = average, 4 = good and 5 = very good)

| Abstract (5%) | Score | Convert |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Adequately describes the entire project | | |
| 2. States clearly the research problem | | |
| 3. Describe briefly and clearly the approach/methodology of the study | | |
| 4. Highlights the outcomes/significance of the study | | |
| Sum | | |
| Subtotal (sum / 4) | | |
| Remark: | | |
| | | |
| Introduction (10%) | | |
| 1. Fitting introduction to the subject of the study | | |
| 2. Concepts/definitions well explained | | |
| 3. Scope of study well described | | |
| 4. Statement of the research problem/ research questions | | |
| Sum | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Subtotal (sum / 2) | | |
| Remark: | | |
| Literature Review (20%) | | |
| 1. Early works published on the subject | | |
| 2. Latest research/ work done in the area of study | | |
| 3. Explication of theories used | | |
| 4. Constructive discussion on publications in relation to the topic of study | | |
| Sum | | |
| Subtotal (sum *1) | | |
| Remark: | | |
| Methodology (10%) | | |
| 1. Research method explained clearly(inclusive of clear explanation of sampling techniques used, where applicable only) | | |
| 2. Appropriate research design / framework/questionnaire | | |
| Sum | | |
| Subtotal (sum * 1) | | |
| Remark: | | |
| Findings & Analysis (20%) | | |
| 1. Data analysis is appropriate | | |
| 2. Data analysis is detailed | | |
| 3. Pertinent use of diagrams/tables/graphs, correlated with content/ Analysis supported by evidence | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| 4. Clear interpretation, well explained | | |
| Sum | | |
| Subtotal (sum * 1) | | |
| Remark: | | |
| Discussion & Conclusion (20%) | | |
| 1. Appropriate; related to the objective of the study | | |
| 2. Findings related to broader issues & recommendations for further research | | |
| 3. Shortcomings of the study & recommendations for future study | | |
| 4. Conclusion is apt, clear | | |
| Sum | | |
| Subtotal (sum * 1) | | |
| Remark: | | |
| Language & Organization (15%) | | |
| 1. Correct use of English and technical language | | |
| 2. APA format is followed | | |
| 3. Comprehensiveness of content and presentation | | |
| Sum | | |
| Subtotal (sum * 1) | | |
| Remark: | | |
| | TOTAL | / |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| | | 100% |
| Penalty: maximum 10 marks for late submission or poor attendance for consultation with supervisor | | |
| | FINAL MARK | 100% |

****Overall Comments:**

Signature: _____

Date:

Notes:

- (1) Sum: The sum of scores for the chapter
- (2) Subtotal: Convert scores from the sum of scores for the chapter
- (3) Total: The summation of all subtotal score

****It's compulsory for the supervisor/reviewer to give the overall comments for the research project with A & F grading.**