

Ethnic Relations In Sabah: A Preliminary Observation

ABSTRACT

In general, the high composition of population diversity in Sabah is more complex as compared to those in Malaya which are focused to only three main groups namely Malay, Chinese and Indian. Many analogies and statements from various political figures and the media have stated that the population in Sabah are highly receptive and tolerant. The statement can be proven by the absence of ethnic conflicts or issues caused by ethnic differences among the multi-ethnic population of Sabah. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to explain the state of ethnic relations in Sabah by using the analysis method of previous studies. The declaration of Sabah having a harmonious multi-ethnic relationship should be based on solid evidence through scientific researches and not based on personal opinions. The analysis of several previous studies show that race or ethnic relations in Sabah are indeed good. Factors such as the colonial government system, the establishment of a mixed society before colonization, family ties through intermarriage of different ethnicities or religions are the basis of harmony in a society.