

Peringatan: perhatikan format menulis petikan langsung daripada sumber asalnya. Jarak 1; berikan ruang kiri lebih sedikit bagi memisahkan ia daripada teks biasa supaya nampak kemas.

Three days later, Minister in the Prime Minister Department, Mohd Effendi Nawawi issued a press statement to “correct” the Deputy Finance Minister’s answer to parliament about Malay/ Indigenous’ share of shareholding value in listed companies in Bursa Malaysia. Excerpts of the Minister’s press statement goes:

The Government wishes to state that the equity ownership of bumiputera in the corporate sector, as at 31 December 2004, was 18.9%, as mentioned in the Ninth Malaysia Plan

The recently quoted figure of 36.64% of bumiputera equity ownership in 2005 for listed companies is incorrect.

The methodology used in deriving the estimated figure of 36.64% for 2005 is inaccurate because it apportioned 45% of equity ownership held by nominee companies to the bumiputera.

The correct figure of bumiputera equity ownership in listed companies for 2005 ... is 21.8%, and not 36.64%.¹

Despite the above furor, the questions of economic underdevelopment, poverty eradication and income gaps are not exclusively plaguing the Malay and the indigenous of Sabah and Sarawak. The Chinese and the Indian as well as other non-bumiputera ethnic communities are also experiencing them as well. But the intensity of some of these problems continues to be highly evidence among the Malay and especially the indigenous of Sabah and Sarawak in comparison to other non-Malay, non-Indigenous (bumiputera) ethnic communities. The indigenous of Sabah and Sarawak, especially the Kadazandusun communities of Sabah and the Dayak communities of Sarawak have frequently highlighted this matter. In many past studies, scholars such as Jayum Jawan, Madeline Berma and Dimbab

¹ “Press statement by YB Dato Sri Effendi Nawawi, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department”, the Star, 13 November 2006.

Ngidang² have frequently highlighted the lack of as well as lag in development among the Dayak communities in Sarawak, while similar trends for the indigenous of Sabah have also been observed by scholars such as Bilson Kuru, James Ongkili and Wilfred M. Tangau and research institutes such INDEP (Institute for Indigenous Economic Progress, Sabah).³ It was only in the early 2000s that the federal government has for the very first time come to openly acknowledge this matter. The admissions were made by both the present and the immediate past Prime Ministers in two separate conferences organized jointly by the two communities.⁴

² See for examples several works by these scholars and many more in Richard Mason & Ariffin S.M. Omar (eds). *The Bumiputera Policy: Dynamics and Dilemmas*, Special Issue of *Kajian Malaysia*, Vol. XXI, Nos. 1 & 2, July/December.

³ See Richard Mason & Ariffin S.M. Omar's edited volume on *Bumiputera Policy: Dynamics and Dilemmas* that contained works by Bilson Kuru & Wilfred M. Tangau, James Ongkili on the economic aspect of development in the Kadazandusun community in particular and on Sabah in general.

⁴ Mahathir Mohamad (Tun Dr.), then Prime Minister, attended the first such conference, *Workshop on the OPP3 & the Eight Malaysian Plan*, jointly organized by INDEP (Sabah) and SDGA (Sarawak), 3-4 April, Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, and Abdullah Ahmad Badawi attended the second, the Bumiputera Minority Economic Congress, jointly organized by the Kadazandusun Chamber of Commerce (Sabah and the Dayak Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Sarawak), February 2005.