

## Book Review 'Hubungan Etnik: Kelangsungan Pembinaan Negara Bangsa' (Malay Version)

Iqbal U\*

History Programme, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

This book is based on the syllabus set by the Malaysian Higher Education which was later published as a module of Ethnic Relations (2007). This book may be considered as supplementary to that book, in addition to increasing the number of reference books in the field of ethnic relations that is still limited in the market. As a reference book, its talk's format is concise. Each topic contains learning outcomes, key words and a summary of the chapter in order to facilitate students' understanding of the process. Meanwhile, some examples of questions in the form of essays and objectives of the training are also available to prepare students in course work and answer the questions in the exam preparation. Methods of delivery in such a way make it easier for students to understand the course and thus are able to appreciate the importance of building harmonious ethnic relations.

Although the book is targeted as a text that can be widely used among students taking compulsory Ethnic Relations paper at the Institute of Higher Education, this book has much bigger aspirations. Editorial board members organize and analyse the content of this book so it is worthy of general reading, especially for the younger generation. Through this book is also expected to help improve student achievement and enhance teaching quality of lecturers. The approach is an attempt to blow awareness and ignite hope to all Malaysians to achieve 1 Malaysia. The attitude of acceptance, humility in relationships and practice the values of loyalty is one of 1 Malaysia values which was also discussed in the book. These values serve as the stake in harmonious and strong ethnic relationship. Preparations and discussions done in the scope of academic but easy to work with and understand by the wider community. Hence this book is believed to be complete passage to the appreciation of all.

Malaysia is a unique country because of its people race, religion and culture. Events of May 13, 1969 considered the culmination of the problem of ethnic relations in Malaysia. In Malaysia, ethnicity and economy have a very close relationship in determining economic growth and political stability. Ethnic Relations course consists of three parts namely, first, discuss the concepts and theories of ethnic relations, second, political and economic history of the country, and thirdly, to discuss the governments previous and current foster multi-ethnic harmony in Malaysia.

Knowing the basic concepts of ethnic relations is the fundamental key to understanding ethnic relations. Ethnic relations not only involve the relationship between groups of different ethnicities but it should also be understood through the larger aspects of the relationship, including the relationship in political, economic and social. This dynamic must be understood by taking into account the historical development of society, especially before and after the colonial period. Understand some basic concepts that have been discussed in Chapter 2 will bring a bit of understanding of how the various ethnic relations in Malaysia which exist and persist to this day. Malaysian society set aside differences to remain and harmony as one race that has a national identity and self-esteem as Malaysian race.

Malaysian plural society that exists today is the result of the interaction of a number of historical factors. The plurality of cultures

in the Malay world started since at least the fifth century AD. The expansion of British influence in Malaya in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century has resulted in the migration of Chinese and Indian in a big way to Malaya. Malaysia's economy is based on agriculture has changed in export-oriented economy and industry knowledge economy. Basically, the economy and ethnicity is something that cannot be separated, mutually influence each other. The growth rate of the economy and people's quality of life index also increased as a testament to the economic development of Malaysia. In addition, the development of the national economy also had a positive impact in the context of ethnic relations. Among other poverty rates can be significantly reduced and socio-economic inter-ethnic position also looks more balanced.

The biggest challenge is the country's economic development and political stability; the economic downturn will affect the country's political stability. Instead, political stability would negatively affect the country's economic prosperity. Hence, Malaysia's survival from economically and politically aspects depend on durable national integration. Religious identity is essential in a society in Malaysia in accordance with the first principle of Rukun Negara. Article 3(1) of the Malaysian constitution stipulates that the religion of the federation is Islam, but other religions may be practiced in peace and harmony in the country. As the federal religion, Islam Hadhari concept introduced by the former Prime Minister, Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. This concept was introduced in the formulation of various national development agenda in line with the teachings of Islam through a balanced approach either in terms of spiritual, economic, educational, social and legal services. Each ethnic group in Malaysia has their own identity and is practiced by each race. The diversity of identity is a hallmark of an unnecessary intrusion. Celebrate diversity efforts towards existing should be understood by all segments of society in order to create harmonious relations between ethnic groups. This harmony will be entrenched if every ethnic group be respectful of the rights of other ethnic identity.

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\*Corresponding author: Uqbah Iqbal, History Programme, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, UKM 43650 Bangi Selangor, Malaysia, Tel: 60163175712; E-mail: [uqbah@siswa.ukm.edu.my](mailto:uqbah@siswa.ukm.edu.my)

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