

Interactions Ethnic Alignment of Sarawakian Chinese Politics Culture and 11th Sarawak State Election

Samsu Adabi Mamat¹, Iskandar Hasan Tan Abdullah², Nor Farizah Johari²,
Tuan Mohd Rosli Tuan Hassan³

¹Center of History Studies, Politics and Strategy, Faculty of Social Science and Humanity, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

²Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Machang, Kelantan, Malaysia

³Faculty of Business Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Machang, Kelantan, Malaysia

Received: July 27, 2016

Accepted: October 1, 2016

ABSTRACT

Ethnic alignment is the basis of understanding of economy class, national interest and integration obligation to nationhood. Yet, all over the ethnicity in Malaysia, the ethnic alignments are still problematic, degraded, abused and mismanaged, making management of ethnic alignments is a central issue in this 13th General Election and forwarded to the 11th Sarawak State Election. Hence, the Sarawakian is unique and ethnic alignment has always been traditionally entrusted with the responsibility of equality and facilitating togetherness, increasingly, the public, NGOs, politicians and are playing a greater role to become one for all and all for one. Sustainable Sarawakian Chinese politics culture involves cooperation between Sarawak government and all the ethnics. Sarawak has a good history of effective ethnic alignment management.

KEYWORDS: Ethnic Alignment, Sarawakian Chinese Politics, 11th Sarawak State Election.

INTRODUCTION

The establishment of statehood is based on the ethos of the nation, patriotism, solidarity, the attachment between the existing ethnic and lastly the progress of a country. A prosperous, safe and has minimal ethnic conflict in the country showed people living in happy and excited. The stages of development of a country were started from an agrarian country into a modern and cosmopolitan. This will lead to a cosmopolitan country means there is prosperity to the nature of the welfare state. In the 11th Sarawak State Election on the 7th May 2016 has achieved a significant level of ethnic relations among the Sarawakians. This was showing that the ethnic alignment of politics with the bonding among ethnics living in mature politics. Malaysia has managed to overcome all hardships in politics since the new political era during Reformasi which lead by Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. The people are grateful that this country still has hopes of democratization in inter-ethnic relations in this country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The political independence should be revived for the safety and well-being of future generations. Hence, Malaysians need to understand ethnic relations. Among the ethnic relations theory was the prejudiced approach [1], migration approaches [6], pluralism approach [3], human development approach in ethnic relations [4], development approach [5] and approach of ethnicity [2]. The life of the various ethnic groups living in a pluralistic society disintegrating but there are three types of relationships that bind them that normative commitment such as religion, culture, language, thinking and way of life. The second is the bond force comprises units of politics and economics. The third bond is characteristic of social contact, physical characteristics, food and shelter. Racial polarization that exists today is due to the legacy of the past that do not want to mix and dampen the spirit of their ethnicity. This is because there is lost identity and ethnic identity, respectively. In other words, selfishness is better than societal preferences. Find common positive attitude in interpersonal relationships in the community is crucial for the construction of a nation. It shows all the countries of the world have found that the development correlated with inequality gap that one party to win and one side relented. This means that in a democracy, governance weaknesses and development undertaken by the government will not only be politicized by opposition parties, but also non-governmental organizations. In this age of information data technology in this country with multiple ethnic and with the community will face obstacles and challenges of life together. This is because estimates of ethnicity, culture and religion are often used as a hot issue until the occurrence politicking based on ethnic politics in social media. The role of social

media is unethical and do not respect the feelings and emotions of the universe causing ethnic conflict. Malaysia is a moderate, progressive, tolerant and the rule of law has been believed by all ethnic groups that the country is actually safe to be occupied, the same shared and celebrated together.

Chinese Politics

Not either of any country carrying out the ethnic immigrant are equivalent to indigenous. Although, ethnic Chinese and Indians have trading relationship and marriage with indigenous communities since the establishment of a Malacca Sultanate. Thus, ethnic relations prevailing since independence until today. Despite the new political awareness since 1997 that the people of various ethnic groups stand together to demand change and reform the country's political administration. Reformers who demanded a new political culture has three main agendas namely:

- i). That the freedom of expression, association, human rights, access to public information, public participation in decision and democratization of public institutions.
- ii). That the political values such as accountability, transparency, integrity, good governance and trust. Finally, social justice for all ethnic groups in the country.
- iii). Demanding change in the country's public administration such as corruption, abuse of power, the issue of federalism and access to top government institutions for non-Malay ethnic.

Political Culture in Sarawak

But, the situation today is better than ever in 1997. Democratization and maturity of the people today are more intact. This is because of the monotony of the practices of certain political parties who burned parameter of ethnicity, culture and religion in the country. The existence of a chauvinist and racist and religious extremism does exist in all countries with multiple ethnic groups. Malaysians are fortunate because the rule of law is still being held and the people's maturity has led to ethnic relations is increasingly less conflict. Malaysia has mold development theory is based on three main factors namely:

- i). Development of sociological theory and market-based capitalist system worldwide used as the basis of our national economy. This allows all individuals, regardless of ethnicity, class and religion to have the wealth and prosperity of this country.
- ii). Political and economic dependency theory were rejected. Economic theory classes serve as the basic framework for understanding the distribution of wealth in this country. The even economic theory class is used to resolve social gaps in society.
- iii). The problems of development in the multi ethnic society are completed and reinforced by sociological modernization theory.

Starting from colonial families Brooke in Sarawak has changed the political landscape of the core ethnic Iban community. It extends the concept of political affiliation Sarawak on the occurrence of ethnic Chinese migration to the state since the 1880s. This situation causes a uniqueness that exists between indigenous peoples and ethnic immigrants. Ethnic Chinese immigrants were accepted and treated equally with those who are indigenous. Christianity brought by the James Brooke are welcomed and respected by the Iban. The effect of the Brooke family occupation has brought with it a high tolerance among ethnic Iban. Despite the various religious and ethnic groups, all of which were in the house long considered equal and no special difference. Thus, the state of Sarawak is finally formed society today. Political compromise has been understood by every member of the tribal Iban respectively. Ethnic mixing in a large family can be seen when it comes time to eat a meal. Food is shared and celebrated together without any prejudices and misgivings. The situation was finally passed into politics. Every ethnic problem that exists in Sarawak will be shared and solved together without the existence of selfishness, prejudice and hatred. For Sarawakians, this aspect is inherited and has become one of the customs that should be followed whether consciously or not. It is not surprising that the atmosphere can be found not only in restaurants, halls and even in schools. Various ethnic Sarawak shares a meal in a restaurant or eatery also felt the atmosphere in the halls. Inter-ethnic marriages in Sarawak more frequent and lively look compared to the peninsula. This situation also continued in Sarawak politics when the various ethnic groups into political parties in Sarawak. Even if a party based on ethnicity is not necessary, a candidate for the state assembly comes from the core ethnic party. This situation caused a political party that is based on an ethnicity can still receive other ethnic groups into the party. An ethnic loyalty to any political party in Sarawak is less. This is because the people of Sarawak prefer the personality of the candidate and also a belief in the potential of the ordered state.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper was used the qualitative method. Observation and analysis was made from the secondary data including certain events in 11th Sarawak State Election. Knowing about the presence of theory and problems in cross cultural politics in 11th Sarawak State Election is a success story of mature politics. The questioning of

these 11th Sarawak State Election emerges a new issue of cross cultural politics setting. This could be divided into two methods:

Ethnic Alignment Based Method

Problems in cross cultural politics based method are related to the reform applied by the political administrators in Malaysia. Therefore, it is very important to enrich the knowledge of the political reform approach in the field of sustainability of politic and stability as an important element in the development of Malaysia politic reform. This aspect can help and improve the effectiveness of the Malaysia politics reform. Thus, problems such studies can expand our understanding of the reform methodologies that can be applied according to the suitability of targets for achieving the vision 11th Sarawak State Election.

Non Ethnic Alignment Based Method

Problems in practical terms are to understand the basic situation of Malaysia political culture methodologies adopted by Sarawakian politics involved directly. When the basic situation is understood, the shortcomings and weaknesses in the process of interaction between Sarawakian Chinese Politics and Malaysia Political Culture can be understood. Therefore, the Malaysia Political Culture especially in Sarawak could be improved and streamlined for better 11th Sarawak State Election. The position of the political party determines the level of interactions that occurred in Sarawak. Thus, the reform methodology can be used to improve the ethnic relations especially the Chinese politics in the sustainability of Malaysia political development.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Social mobility has caused people to have a voice to express their feelings and emotions of rights without fear of being killed or tortured like other countries. This is due to the existence of a government that has a difference solutions, compromise and consensus in decision-making areas. This is the formula for success of our country's use of bargaining and negotiation rather than conflict. For example, as happened in the 11th Sarawak state election. Sarawak has 28 major ethnic groups of the language or dialect, culture and religion. Only five ethnic politics that have characterized the life course of Melanaus 27.4% Sarawak, Iban 27.6%, China 32.9%, 7.7% Bidayuh, Orang Ulu 4.4% and others. When discussing the Sarawak state election, many do not understand that politics in Sarawak are a political compromise, pure and consensus. Although ranked as the Iban ethnic majority, but compromise seems better than politics in the peninsula.

This is because the political state of Sarawak is like the political situation prevailing in the longhouse. All considered ethnic Sarawak Iban despite religious and racial diversity of Melanaus considered Iban, even the Chinese who married the indigenous Iban Sarawak also considered as Iban. Sarawak Iban politics are politics which still respects the core of Christianity brought by the invaders, although some of whom do not embrace the religion. This compromise should be praised for their political selfishness and hatred politics has not spread among the people of Sarawak. Unlike political Pakatan Harapan hopes the beginning had already shown their ego-bound existence in the overlapping state seats. Because of the overlapping of this chair is due to a census conducted by the Merdeka Center. Political pattern is less accepted among the people of Sarawak. Even so, Sarawak ethnic Chinese who make up 32% of the voters in Sarawak have been influenced by the political future of the peninsula. This happens because the majority of Sarawak's ethnic Chinese lives in urban areas that have extensive broadband and 4G. A burst of data information supersedes the information technology has helped Pakatan Harapan campaigns in cyberspace. So many stories that deviate from the truth was disseminated, so that Adenan Satem leadership look bad. If measured in Iban core political leadership is still admired Adenan Satem says firmly safeguard state at the federal level. At the same time compromise has been given to the Chinese state, particularly the recognition of Chinese Private School Exam.

This recognition allows the Chinese state enjoys working in state government, including continuing education at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. In addition, the Chinese Private Schools Sarawak also received financial support from the leadership Adenan Satem. This gift is pure political leadership provided by Adenan Satem includes allowances for the purchase of land in Sarawak. Compared with the Government of the Sultanate of Brunei, the Chinese did not get the recognition of Chinese-type schools are not even given citizenship. This is because the Government of the Sultanate of Brunei does not recognize the Chinese immigrants who came to the country. If you look at other countries in Southeast Asia, all of these countries do not allow the Chinese education and forced to assimilate into indigenous communities. But in Malaysia particularly in Sarawak, the ethnic Chinese Sarawak position to enjoy better opportunities than other partners in Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar. The ethnic Chinese Sarawak cannot point fingers saying they oppressed and treated third class in the state. Indeed, any leadership but there is a drawback if these weaknesses can still be improved, then do not ruin it. Political terms brought by Pakatan Harapan must be detailed if they still do not fit together with each other and vows to each other. A party that does not pledge themselves also will not swear allegiance to the people. This is due to intoxication of power

before getting the victory in the election will be more serious harm if they are successful. Political power if not controlled, it will cause damage to the people and the state.

Undeniably, Sarawak politics are influenced by ethnic Chinese. To 2001, the number of ethnic Chinese voters in Sarawak stood at 28% and in 2016 the number of Chinese ethnic Sarawak amounted to 32% over the number of ethnic Muslim voters only 33%. The increase in the State Legislative Assembly of 71 seats in the state assembly in 2011 is now the 82 state seats in Sarawak. The number of Chinese-majority seats from 12 seats in 2011 to 17-seat majority Chinese ethnic Sarawak (number of voters of ethnic Chinese in Sarawak for more than 40%) and 13-seat majority mixed between ethnic Iban and ethnic Sarawak (state percentage of voters in the two ethnic Iban and ethnic Chinese state is not significantly different). This means that Chinese state plays a big role on the 30 seats of the 82 state seats in Sarawak namely 36.5% of the total seats in Sarawak. Internal issues Sarawak ethnic Chinese became the main choice Sarawak compared to national issues. Issues such as the selection of candidates, the issue of economic issues and the rights of Sarawak Sarawak Chinese interests. Only two of the main issues on the agenda in Sarawak namely the issue of ethnic Chinese economic issues and the rights of Sarawak Chinese interests. The economic problems associated with the lease of land for economic activities, business opportunities and jobs. For rights Sarawak Chinese interest is related to education, housing and the public sector.

Adenan Satem leadership has been trying to resolve the two issues of ethnic Chinese economic issues and issues of interest Chinese Sarawakian. Economic development is very important in maintaining political stability Sarawak ethnic Chinese. Save our agenda starts from Sarawak, Malaysia is not very prominent. This situation has changed to the issue of corruption, lies and leakages. All three of these issues championed by DAP to awaken responsibility Sarawak ethnic Chinese in the change of leadership at the national level. The situation is less well received. Similarly, Impian Sarawak was not getting a full support from the Chinese Sarawakian. The result of the 11th Sarawak State Election on 7th May 2016 was showing the Barisan Nasional (BN) lead by Adenan Satem win 72 seats from 82 seats. Meanwhile, DAP only wins 7 seats and PKR was also won 3 seats. The result of BN was improved from 55 seats in 10th Sarawak State Elections. This goes to DAP wins 12 and PKR wins 3 seats in 10th Sarawak State Elections. The reason for this major winning seats for BN in 11th Sarawak State Election are contributed by Adenan Satem leadership.

The Adenan's leadership group policy has changed the discourse of the conflict between ethnic Chinese Sarawakian with the Barisan Nasional in federal level. Even motto Sarawak for Sarawakians also be turned off only when the leadership Adenan prove that only he is able to return the rights of Sarawak in the treaty of 20 issues between the federal government and Sarawak State. For example, a ban on entry of some leaders of the Peninsula proved his words true. Through these two strategies, Sarawak ethnic Chinese no longer oppose the core SUPP led by the ethnic Chinese state leader. This is because elections are coming from SUPP leadership group Adenan instead come from SUPP. Adenan Satem presence is further highlighted when some claims of ethnic Chinese Sarawakian were fulfilled. Others will be fulfilled after Adenan Satem leadership team win in Sarawak ethnic Chinese majority seats. Thus, the ethnic Chinese voters in Sarawak have two groups. A group of voting based on a pragmatic and realistic consideration in the context of self-interest. Another group also voted on emotion and sentiment considerations. To thwart the vote on the consideration of emotions and sentiments of the group's leadership has expressed Adenan Satem unrest between PKR and DAP in the issue of overlapping seats.

Next, the issue of intervention, both national leaders in overlapping seats in Sarawak portrayed as less mature and have their own agenda. A vested interest in the opposition more apparent from the agenda the issue of Save Malaysia as enshrined in the Declaration of the People. The Adenan's leadership group also reduce anxiety and dissatisfaction among ethnic Chinese in Sarawak so that these protests do not occur during polling. The Adenan's leadership group also showed their concern to Chinese Sarawak, especially related to Christianity. This is because the majority of ethnic Chinese in Sarawak still respects Christianity and almost 60% Christians. The issue back to Christianity from Islam by Rooney Rebit a Bidayuh prove that worries Christians is not a polemic. As the results obtained by Adenan's leadership group not reflect to Najib's leadership. The politics of hate on Najib's leadership is not capable of affecting the ethnic Chinese Sarawakian.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The conclusion of this paper was showing that the Adenan leadership won the legislative seats more than 10th Sarawak State Election. This is because the Sarawakian Chinese political leadership was fully supporting the Adenan's leadership. Hence, Adenan leadership has managed to solve the problems of Sarawakian Chinese through consultation between community leaders and religious ethnic Chinese. This has successfully solved between the Adenan leadership and the community of Sarawakian Chinese. As a result, the wisdom of win-win situation was compromised and has convinced the Sarawakian Chinese to support the Adenan leadership. The situation prevailing in the Sarawak state election showed that ethnic relations are at a good level of social cohesion.

REFERENCES

1. Banton, M., 1979. Analytical and Folk Concepts of Race and Ethnicity. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 2 (2): 127-138.
2. F. Barth, 1966. Models of social organization. Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.
3. John S. Furnival, 2010. *Netherlands India: A study of plural economy*. Cambridge University Press.
4. D. Seers, 1979. The meaning of economic development. Institute Development of Studies.
5. A. Sen, 2001. *Development as freedom*. Oxford University Press.
6. Patterson, R.D. and E. Tulving, 1968. Functional Units and Retrieval Processes in Free Call. *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 77 (2): 239-248.