



**Intervention by Mr. Syed Edwan Anwar, Charge D'Affaires
Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and Other International
Organizations, Geneva**

**Item 8: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous
Peoples, including Study on Recognition, reparation and reconciliation**

17 July 2019

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Malaysia affirms that the rights of indigenous peoples in the country have been protected under the laws of Malaysia, notably the Federal Constitution and the Aboriginal People's Act 1954.

2. The Malaysian National Development strategies focuses on improving the quality of life of the indigenous people through income generating activities, providing modern infrastructure in traditional settlement, education opportunities and medical assistance. Other programmes include economic related activities, resettlement initiatives, infrastructure facilities, electricity and treated water supply. One of the resettlement initiatives in Perak comprises facilities such as schools, community halls and other social amenities in one area.

3. The Government of Malaysia also provided support to increase awareness on the importance of education among the indigenous community. One such programme, the Student Excellence Programme is designed specifically to cater to indigenous children to improve their level of education. To encourage more indigenous children to attend secondary school, the Government provided assistance in terms of transportation and pocket money. A special scholarship programme was also created to increase the number of indigenous students to continue their education to tertiary level, including at overseas institutions. Currently, 845 Orang Asli students are pursuing their tertiary education in various academic fields offered at Malaysian public and private universities. Malaysia also implements programme to provide opportunities for indigenous students to pursue their studies abroad.

4. To enhance the skills of the indigenous people, the Government provided additional training programme for marketing and setting-up small businesses such as packaging, labelling, marketing, including online platform and also soft-skills in basic accounting and business management. The trainees were provided with an allowance, meal and accommodation for the duration of the course.

5. The community's economic potentials were identified and developed through programmes such as agriculture, tourism and entrepreneurship expertise. Among others, the

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Government introduced income-generating programmes and other commercial agricultural activities, such as commercial oil palm and rubber to further spur their socio-economic advancement.

6. For the indigenous communities in Sabah and Sarawak, initiatives to increase income of all, reducing income disparity in the States, improving rural basic infrastructure, and introducing various programmes to create economic opportunities are being implemented.

7. One of the people centric programmes that was carried out under the *Program Khas Anak Negeri (PKAN)* Sabah and *Program Khas Bumiputera (PKB)* Sarawak was the Native Customary Right Land Survey Programme. The objective of the programme was to safeguard and protect the rights of the natives in Sabah and Sarawak with the aim to increase land ownership by the natives. Lands that have been surveyed will be developed with crops such as rubber and palm oil in order to uplift the socio-economic wellbeing of the natives in both States. As for reparation, compensation will be paid to Orang Asli if their land is taken over for development project. Compensation consists of cash payments based on the land market value and/or new village as well as new plantations and plants.

8. The Government also developed the Rural Transformation Centre (RTC), Mini RTC and the Rural Service Centres in remote areas in Sarawak for the Penan peoples. All of these facilities were built at strategic locations to provide basic and essential facilities, a place for the community to gather and socialise and encourage a more coordinated way to implement programmes among government agencies.

Madam Chairperson,

9. In conclusion, the Government is responsible to ensure the respect for the rights of indigenous peoples in the country, and is steadfast in the realization of the indigenous communities' welfare and advancement throughout the country. With respect to indigenous peoples, the principle of "no one left behind" in the enjoyment of the fruits of development and the advancement of human rights have been adopted by Malaysia since its independence. The Government also takes into account the contribution, participation, and the roles of indigenous peoples towards the full realization of national development policies and plans.

I thank you, Madam.

GENEVA
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