

**RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS ACCEPTANCE AMONG STUDENTS  
OF HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS IN SABAH: A CASE  
STUDY AT UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA SABAH AND INTI  
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## DECLARATION OF ORIGINAL WORK



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“DECLARATION OF ORIGINAL WORK”**

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Hereby, declare that,

- This work has not previously been accepted in substance for any degree, locally or overseas and not being concurrently submitted for this degree or any other degree.
- This project paper is the result of my independent work and investigation, except where otherwise stated.
- All verbatim extracts have been distinguished by quotation marks and sources of my information have been specifically acknowledged.

Signature:



Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

According to the history of Malaysia, Malaysia was formed on 16 September 1963 when Singapore, Sabah (North Borneo) and Sarawak agreed to join Federation of Malaya to become one country. However, on 1965 Singapore left the Federation and become an independent state. Malaysia's population comprises many ethnic groups such as Malays, Chinese Indians and Bumiputras that's make Malaysia as multi-racial country which consists of many kind of ethnic group that live together in the same place. In Malaysia, Malays is the major ethnic group followed by Bumiputra of Sabah and Sarawak, Chinese and Indians.

Even though, there are many ethnic groups that live in Malaysia, all these groups live in harmony without any ethnic disputes since the tragedy of May 13, 1969. Basically, in Peninsular Malaysia Malays, Chinese and Indians are the largest ethnic groups while in Sabah and Sarawak it consist many ethnic groups which known as indigenious peoples such as Dusun, Kadazan, Bajau, Murut, Runggus, Sungai, Brunei, Iban, Kayan, kenyah and others.

In term of religion, Islam is the largest and as the official religion in Peninsular Malaysia and for the country as a whole. All Malays are considered as Muslim as defined in Article 160 of the constitution of Malaysia. However, in Sabah and Sarawak is different where all the people have the right and freedom to choose what religion that they want to follow such as Buddhist, Christian and Hindus.