

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**THE POLITICS  
OF  
POVERTY ERADICATION  
PROGRAMS  
IN  
SABAH UNDER  
BARISAN NASIONAL  
ADMINISTRATION**

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**MAS**

**December 2021**

## AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.


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## **ABSTRACT**

This study explored the politics behind the coordination and the implementation of the poverty eradication program in Sabah during the Barisan Nasional tenure (2003-2017). Historically, the Barisan Nasional was in power for more than two decades in Sabah. During the BN tenure, various poverty eradication programs had been implemented with considerable amount of development funds. Despite the state receiving considerable amount of development funds, the performance of the implementation of the poverty program was less successful as compared to other states in Malaysia. To date Sabah is still reported as the poorest in Malaysia. This study explored how were the poverty eradication programs coordinated and implemented in Sabah within 15 years of BN's tenure and what were the challenges that led to the less successful outcome. This study employed neo-institutions theory by leveraging on historical institutionalism. As a qualitative study, the primary data collection was elite qualitative interviews. All interviewees held top level position in the state administration and were involved directly in the policy-making domain, particularly in in the coordinating and implementing of the poverty eradication programs in Sabah. The data analyzed by adapting the thematic data analysis. The final data analysis reveal the form of institutions emerge in the coordination and implementation of the poverty eradication programs in the state level which consists of the politics of coordination and implementation, conflict of interest, political corruption, uneven power relations, seepage and the patrimonialism

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