

THE SARAWAK DAYAK IBAN ASSOCIATION

(SADIA)

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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PERPUSTAKAAN UiTM SARAWAK

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## A. BACKGROUND

The formation of the Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA), an Iban communal association, took several months after receiving the blessing and support from persons like Datuk Daniel Tajem, SDNU President and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Alfred Jabu.

SADIA Constitution was drafted and sent to the Registrar of Societies for approval. The formation of the body was then officially registered on 14th February, 1984.

SADIA was formed to complement the efforts of the two other existing Dayak organisations. It completes the base of the Sarawak Dayak National Union (SDNU), the parent body. SDNU base was then made up of the Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA) and the Orang Ulu National Association (OUNA). These three organisations fall under the umbrella of SDNU whose primary aim is to unite the indigenous races that come under the Iban, Bidayuh and Orang Ulu.

Since its formation, many branches had been officiated throughout the various divisions of Sarawak.

SADIA Kuching Branch is considered to be one of the most active branches of SADIA. It has embarked on a number of activities which, in one way or the other, served as an eye-opener to the general Iban community.

Like any other association, SADIA is no exception in its wake to struggle for the various aims and objectives best known to itself. Whether some of its aims and objectives are genuine, practical, realistic and wise or otherwise, depend on some contributing factors. Some of these factors are the degree of literacy and perception of the Iban community at large; the abilities and personalities of the leaders and members of the National Executive Committee at the time in organising and administrating the association; the immediate prevailing situation of the economic and social environment whether conducive or not and the awareness, acceptance, response, support, participation and contribution of the members and the Iban community at large. All these factors apply to any matter, issue, proposals or demands made by SADIA at hand. Following these, problems do occur.



Through these shall we investigate and make an in-depth study for our understanding.

#### B. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

The objectives of the study are as follows :-

- (i) To know and understand the reasons and motives behind the formation of the Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA).
- (ii) To study the organisational structure and management of the association by looking through the historical background; office bearers; method of committee selection or appointment; term of office; the influence, personalities, experiences and role played by the National Executive Committee.
- (iii) To identify the personal particulars, awareness, participation and contribution of the respondents.
- (iv) To find out the various activities that the association has embarked on, both successful and unsuccessful, for the interest of the Iban community in terms of economic and social well being.
- (v) To find out the relationships with the other two sister organisations - Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA) and Orang Ulu National Association (OUNA), the parent organisation (Sarawak Dayak National Union-SDNU), the public and the government.
- (vi) To find out the problems or shortcomings faced by SADIA.
- (vii) To know the prospects and the future standing of the association in gaining greater recognition and acceptance by the Iban community, the sister organisations, the parent organisation, the public, the government and the State in the roles SADIA has to play.

#### C. SCOPE OF STUDY

The investigative study is to cover only :-

- (i) On SADIA in Kuching, with emphasis on the SADIA Headquarters at Rumah Dayak, Satok Road, Kuching.
- (ii) The activities embarked on, current issues being questioned, the problems arisen therefrom, and prospects.

#### D. METHODOLOGY

The required information and data for facilitating our study were obtained by adopting the following methods :-

##### (1) Primary Data

###### 1.1 Questionnaires

A set of questionnaire was used to get primary data from the registered members, non-registered/non-members of SADIA. The data in the questionnaire were completed through household interviews of respondents who represent the Iban community in Kuching town and its outskirts.

The areas chosen under study are :-

Kampung Tabuan Dayak

Kampung Siol Kandis

Kampung Stampin/Kampung Stutong

Kampung Sungai Tapang

Rancangan Perumahan Rakyat, Batu Kawa

###### 1.2 Personal Interviews

Interviews were conducted with representatives from SDNU, SADIA, DBNA and OUNA, with Kampung Headmen and some relevant people in respect of SADIA Kuching Branch.

###### 1.3 Personal Observations and Visits

Several visits and observations were made on the SADIA Headquarters. These have enabled us to make some reasonable assumptions on the working environment, the day-to-day activities, the working procedure and the various people who frequent the SADIA Headquarters. Impromptu interviews were also conducted with the people who visited the office.

##### (2) Secondary Data

###### 2.1 Desk Research

The following references have been used to supplement our available data to enable us to analyse the information on SADIA :-