

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**MALAYSIA-FIJI ECONOMIC AND
SECURITY RELATIONS 2014-2018:
AN ANALYSIS**

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ABSTRACT

Malaysia-Fiji strengthened their bilateral relationship by sending their diplomatic missions to each other states that has encouraged the cooperation in economic and security. The political instability faced by Fiji reflected the 2006 coup, Fiji's memberships in few regional and international organisations are suspended and Fiji is threatened with trade sanctions resulted the established diplomatic relations with other non-traditional states as well with Malaysia through Look North Policy. Malaysia's support has been seen as vital for the overall development of Fiji even before the coup, for instance via the initiatives under South-South and Triangular cooperation known as MTCP and MDCP since 1993. Later, the conditions in Fiji can be considered started to get calm again and many of the sanctions are lifted and Fiji able resumed its membership in the regional and international organisation and maintained the cooperation under Look North Policy. This also signifies that, Malaysia-Fiji relations still continue despite some political upheavals in Fiji by utilising several initiatives. Thus, this research will analyse the relations between Malaysia-Fiji in economic and security in the post coups period from the year 2014 until 2018.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

This chapter focuses on the background of the study related to the Malaysia-Fiji economic and security relations which are formed with the establishment of diplomatic missions in both states in the 80s. The presentation of this chapter begins with the research background, followed by the problem statement, research questions, research objectives, scope of the study, and the significance of the study.

1.2 Background of the Study

Fiji was decolonised from the British colony in the year of 1970 October after it had been colonised for nearly a century from the year of 1874. The independence enjoyed by Fijians today is the result of a series of dialogue sessions held between the parties in Suva, Fiji and British officials in London (Norton, 2017). Meanwhile, its counterpart which is Malaysia cries ‘Merdeka’ or independent of Federation of Malaya (before it changed its name to Malaysia in 16th September 1963), in the year of 1957, 31st August (Cribb, 1999). Ironically, Malaysia also gained its independence from the British which makes them among the 53 members of Commonwealth Nations.

These Commonwealth states further strengthened their bilateral relationship by sending their diplomatic missions to each other states that resulted in the establishment of Malaysia High Commission in Suva, Fiji in the year 1984, while the establishment of Fiji High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in the year 1988 (Malaysia, 2019). The establishment of the Malaysia High Commission in Suva initially seeks to establish formal diplomatic relations with Fiji and other countries accredited concurrently in the South Pacific region as part of Malaysia's efforts to strengthen South-South and Triangular cooperation. Additionally, through that cooperation, it is aimed at expanding Malaysia's marketing and investment abroad to the largest and closest Pacific Ocean region to Southeast Asia (SEA) region. On the other hand, Fiji's missions to Malaysia carries the aim to toughen and widen their relationship based on their engagement platform known as Fiji's Look North Policy where it is considered as an integral