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RE-INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ELECTION: SARAWAK PERSPECTIVE

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MARCH - SEPTEMBER 2012

ABSTRACT

Local government, also called local authority, is the third level of government. Although the smallest and perhaps least powerful compared to the other two (state and federal), it has an important role to play in a democratic society. We will focus more towards Reintroduction of Local Government Election: Sarawak Perspective. 25 residents and 25 council members of municipalities' government in Sarawak, which are in Kuching, Sibul, and Miri, will be randomly selected to answer our questionnaire on reintroduction of Local government election. The public awareness regarding the local government election also examined. On the city council side, they will be questioned about reintroduction of local government election. The findings shows that majority of our respondent agree for reintroduction of the third vote.

CONTENTS

Chapters	Page
Chapter 1: Introduction	
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Problem statement	3
1.2 Research objectives	5
1.3 Research question	6
1.4 Significance of the study	6
1.5 Scope of research	7
Chapter 2: Literature Review & Conceptual Framework	
2.1 Significance of local government	8
2.2 The Machinery of Government in Israel: Local Government	9
2.2.1 Local Government Election in Israel	11
2.3 Local Government in Nigeria	12
2.3.1 Local Government as Third Tier	13
2.3.2 Local Elections	15
2.4 Local Government in Japan	17
2.5 The Elements of Western European Local Governments	17
2.5.1 What is government?	17
2.5.2 The Role of Local Government in the Political System	19
2.5.3 The Page and Goldsmith Framework	21
2.6 The Democratic Deficit	22
2.6.1 Politics of Policy in Local Government	23
2.6.2 Electoral Chain of Command Theory	23
2.6.3 The Doctrine of Responsible Party Government	24
2.6.4 Theory of Competitive Leadership	25
2.6.5 Politicians Theory of Voting Behavior	25
2.6.6 The Symbolic Function of Election	26
2.7 Conference on Roadmap to Local Government Elections July 28, 2008	27
2.8 History of Local Government Election in Malaysia	36
2.8.1 West Malaysia	36
2.8.2 Suspension of Local Government Election	38
2.9 Local Government in Sarawak	39
2.10 The Principles of Good governance	42
2.11 Election Commission is Ready for Sarawak State Election	45
2.2 Conceptual framework	46

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.0 Background of the Study

The local government or local authority or municipal government (Kerajaan Tempatan or Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan) (PBT) is the lowest level in the system of government in Malaysia after Federal and State level. Local Government has the power to collect taxes in the form of assessment tax, to create laws and rules (in the form of by-laws) and to grant licenses and permits for any trade in its area of jurisdiction, in addition to providing basic amenities, collecting and managing waste and garbage as well as planning and developing the area under its jurisdiction. Local authorities in Malaysia are generally under the exclusive purview of the state governments and headed by a civil servant with the title Yang Di-Pertua (President) (Ahmad Atory Hussain, 2002).

The concept of district administration or "field administration" is the method makes use of by most states to administrate region that is far from the region's capital. Most states that have enormous region tend to use "field administration" structure in administering their countryside since their vast territory reduced the effective administration from the central capital. The other rationale is that for a democracy states are required to fulfill their responsibility to bring democracy to the people who live far from the central administration so that the public can liberally decide the government that they desired in other word, the concept of autonomy in administering their own region. The administrative form of local government can also consider as "decentralization" (Ahmad Atory Hussain, 2002).

Chapter 2

Literature Review and Conceptual Framework

2.1 Significance of Local Government

Many urban centers and cities if left inadequately governed and managed will be characterized by rising urban degradation and this may subsequently have a negative impact upon the social and physical fabrics of the environment. In an increasingly urbanizing world, sustainability of urban centres will depend largely upon the governance capacity of the cities and to a certain extent the support of the citizen. This brings forth the concept of urban governance which has been which cities are managed. Within it is entrenched a system of good governance which works towards making cities more efficient, safer, and sustainable (Phang Siew Nooi, 2000).

Cities are undergoing great transformations. As a result of globalization, cities are now confronted with opposing forces operating from within (Phang Siew Nooi, 2000).

Cities if managed properly can be productive, healthy, safe and economically sustainable. However, it is apparent that many city governments are under-prepared and under-resourced in positioning themselves for the challenges of urbanizing world. But, lack of human and financial resources is only a symptom of a much deeper problem for it is acknowledge that the main cause of urban decadence is inefficient and ineffective urban management and poor governance (Phang Siew Nooi, 2000).

Overall, poor governance can be very damaging to economic growth and will undermine city management. Thus, in the final analysis, it can be argued that it is more important to