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ELECTORAL DYNAMICS IN SARAWAK

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ELECTORAL DYNAMICS IN SARAWAK

CONTESTING DEVELOPMENTALISM AND RIGHTS

Edited by **Meredith L. Weiss and Arnold Puyok**



SIRD

Strategic Information and Research Development Centre
Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

ISEAS YUSOF ISHAK
INSTITUTE

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This volume presents the findings of one prong of a multi-year, multi-country, many-person effort to examine the role of political networks and patronage flows as part of electoral cycles in Southeast Asia. In connection with that project, we have thus far deployed large teams across Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines to conduct ethnographic field research on the conduct of elections: Malaysia's 13th general election in 2013, Indonesia's legislative election in 2014, the Philippines' general election in 2016, and now the Sarawak state election, also in 2016. (Plans to include the Thai general election of 2015 were disrupted by the coup and subsequent emergency rule.) Guided by a set of central research questions and concepts, the researchers, distributed among a reasonably representative set of electoral districts, track the conduct of the campaign there, as situated within local history, issues, and socioeconomic context. The approach allows subnational, national, and cross-national comparisons about the composition, function, penetration, and durability of political networks; the mix and relative prevalence of material, affective, and ideological factors shaping voting behaviour; and the balance among individual-level (particularistic), community-level (meso-particularistic), and non-contingent and non-exclusive (programmatic) policies elections are likely to produce.

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went on to contribute chapters to this volume, based on their findings. That team put tremendous effort into what is inherently challenging research and writing; the chapters here aim to present empirically rich and analytically trenchant, thought-provoking contributions to the study of politics in Sarawak and Malaysia generally. Credit is due also to the co-principal investigators of the overarching project, together with editor Weiss: Edward Aspinall (who participated also in the workshop to develop this volume), Allen Hicken, and Paul Hutchcroft. The support of all three has been invaluable.

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Glossary & Definitions

1MDB	1Malaysia Development Berhad
ADMO	Alliance Direct Membership Organisation
Amanah	Parti Amanah Negara, National Trust Party
BN	Barisan Nasional, National Front
Bumiputera	Malays and non-Malay indigenous peoples of Malaysia
<i>Ceramah</i>	Political rallies, usually centred around stump-speeches
DAP	Democratic Action Party
EC	Election Commission (see SPR)
<i>Gotong-royong</i>	Cooperative community work effort
JASA	Jabatan Hal Ehwal Khas, Department of Special Affairs
JKKK	Jawatankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampung, Village Security and Development Committee
KEMAS	Jabatan Kemajuan Masyarakat, Community Development Department
NCR	Native customary rights (particularly to land)
PAS	Parti Islam seMalaysia, Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party
PBB	Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu, United Bumiputera Heritage Party
PBDSB	Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak Baru, New Sarawak Dayak People's Party
<i>Pembangkang</i>	Political opposition
PKR	Parti Keadilan Rakyat, People's Justice Party

PRS	Parti Rakyat Sarawak, Sarawak People's Party
S4S	Sarawak for Sarawakians
SABERKAS	Pertubuhan Belia Kebangsaan Bersatu Sarawak, Sarawak United National Youth Organisation
SIB	Sidang Injil Borneo, Borneo Evangelical Mission
SNAP	Sarawak National Action Party
SPDP	Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party
SPR	Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya, Election Commission (see EC)
SSE	Sarawak state election
STAR	State Reform Party
SUPP	Sarawak United People's Party
TERAS	Parti Tenaga Rakyat Sarawak, Sarawak People's Energy Party
<i>Turun padang</i>	Going 'down to the ground' (walkabouts)
<i>Ubah</i>	Change
UEC	Unified Examination Certificate
UMNO	United Malays National Organisation
UPP	United People's Party

About the Contributors

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