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# BASELINE STUDY ON THE LEVEL OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION AND UNITY

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## A Pilot Study on the Level of Integration and Unity in Sarawak

For:



National Unity and Integration Department  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY DAN INTEGRATION  
PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT  
PUTRAJAYA

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study is an exploratory study carried out to gauge the level of 'social capital' among the various ethnic groups in Sarawak. The ultimate aim is to analyse the hard economic variables and soft variables (survey results) to develop a conceptual framework and subsequently to formulate a model of the index of national unity (and integration) in Sarawak and subsequently for Malaysia.

The Study is divided into five (5) Chapters incorporating the Introductory Chapter where the objectives, purpose and methodology of the study were put forward.

The Second Chapter dwells at some length on the current literature on the development of 'Social Capital' and studies that have been conducted elsewhere. Social capital has been gaining a lot of interest as the subject has been viewed from the issue of social exclusion, social inclusion and impact on poverty amelioration programmes, gender and development issues. Of particular interest to the researchers in this respect is the issue of participation and hence social exclusion which may negate nation-building programmes when one a handful of the community enjoy benefits of development while others turn to be just mere spectators.

Chapter Three discusses the analyses of the hard variables from the view point of ethnic achievements or under achievements over the two intercensal period of 1991 and 2000. The performances of the various ethnic groups in Sarawak have been analysed using the selectivity ratios on key indices or variables of development, namely, education, employment and industrial participation. The analyses offered several interesting findings and the level of preparedness of the different ethnic groups towards achieving the national Vision 2020. For the ethnic groups that are rather behind in their overall achievements, the study team proposed several policy interventions as the enabling factors to move them forward so that they will not be socially excluded from the mainstream of development.

Chapter Four, provide analyses of the survey findings and the outcomes of several of the System Dynamics simulated runs on the key economic or hard variables from 2000 to 2025. Forecasts figures were given and compared across the different ethnic communities and across various platforms-education, employment and Industrial sector participation and the social capital indices for the various communities and ethnic groups in Sarawak. The findings are indicative as the sample size is small and the area coverage for the survey is not as widespread as we would like it to be. However, the outcome of the findings and analyses provide the team members vital data and information in assessing the different level of social capital in the State.

Chapter Five, provides the conclusion and drawing upon the Chapter Three and Four findings, the team members proposed several actions plans and recommendations that may still be further refined for implementation by the relevant government agencies and Ministries.

The team members hope that the analyses given in this report will be the starting point for future works on the national unity and integration and also in refining measurement for national unity index in the country.