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Abstract

Sarawak’s political consciousness began in 1930. This can be seen through Fajar Sarawak newspaper publishing in 1930 and his struggle in the Malay community to raise awareness about the occupation of Brooke in Sarawak, the weakness of their leaders, Malay backwardness in economic terms, the importance of education in changing the fate and their future. Political consciousness movement become visible again after the Second World War when an issue submission by Vyner Brooke of Sarawak to the British in 1946. The issue has led to the anti-secession among the Malays under the leadership of the National Association of Sarawak Malay (PKMS) and under the Sarawak Dayak Association (SDA). Their struggle to claim back Vyner Brooke Sarawak administration, then was changed to claim self-government for the State. Political awareness in Sarawak to grow more robust in the late 1950s following the local elections held and subsequently led to the start of party political activities in the state. The first political party, the Sarawak United People’s Party (SUPP) was established in 1959, followed by Sarawak National Party (PANAS) and Sarawak National Party (SNAP). The concept of Malaysia announced in May 1961 has further increased political awareness and add to the political developments in the state. Subsequently, more political parties formed to represent the interests of the group stood for, namely the Barisan Rakyat Jati Sarawak (BARJASA), Sarawak Chinese Association (SCA), Party Pesaka Anak Sarawak (PESAKA) and Sarawak Alliance Party (SAP). Finally, Sarawak successful in their political struggle and achieve liberation from colonial on 16 September 1963.

Keywords: Sarawak Politics, Fajar Sarawak, Local Elections, Local Political Parties

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