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PROTECTING THE TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: A CASE STUDY OF THE KADAZANDUSUN PENAMPANG COMMUNITY IN SABAH, MALAYSIA

Tay Pek San
University of Malaya (tayps@um.edu.my)

Hanafi Hussin
University of Malaya (hanafih@um.edu.my)

Khaw Lake Tee
University of Malaya (khawlt@um.edu.my)

Mohd Anis Md Nor
University of Malaya (anisnor55@gmail.com)

Ramy Bulan
University of Malaya (ramy@um.edu.my)

Abstract

Traditional cultural expressions are inextricably linked with the lives of indigenous peoples and are an important facet of their existence. Various international efforts to look for a suitable paradigm to protect traditional cultural expressions have been made and these serve as invaluable guidance to national governments when putting in place a suitable regime to protect their indigenous peoples’ traditional cultural expressions. This paper explores the traditional cultural expressions of the Kadazandusun Penampang Community in Sabah, Malaysia and the needs as well as expectations of the community with regard to their traditional cultural expressions. It then considers the legal regime that is currently available to protect their traditional cultural expressions. The objective of the paper is to examine the adequacy or otherwise of the Malaysian government’s efforts in protecting the traditional cultural expressions of the Kadazandusun Penampang community and, on a broader scale, in protecting the other indigenous communities in Malaysia generally.

Keywords: Traditional culture expressions, Indigenous, Protections & Kadazan Penampang