Fairness in Public Policy: Efficiency, Equity, and Beyond

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Policy in Malaysia: Paradigms and Practices

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Economics of developing countries has been marked by inefficient public investment and misguided government interventions that have resulted in many pervasive failures which is mostly due to government's inability to align their efforts with their country's resource base and level of development. They revealed these to be characterized by increasing politicization and monopolization of economic stages with state legitimacy and capacity. When used in response to flawed decision-making processes, political inclusion adversely affect government performance and democratization that undermines vertical relationships of accountability. Policy formulation in practice only includes actors of a specific policy subsystem and there exists tension between state and politics, within and between societies. The hallmark of bureaucracy and politicization tend to promote the continuation of existing practices which may not anchor in the requisite endowments that can help developing-country governments like Malaysia in supporting new paradigms of competition and success in tackling the challenges inherent in the creation of new competitive policies and industries. This paper acknowledges gaps between policies, processes and practices of the state and in factoring fair dimension of policies in better distribution of beneficiaries across the society. This paper would highlight public policy in the country in terms of fairness/equity distribution, monopolies, efficiencies and practices that permeates public administration and possible future challenges.

Keywords: public policy, practices, administration, Malaysia.

Policymaking has become highly complex in the context of persistent problems and the related uncertainties, fairness, justice and rooted in different societal domains on varying levels and involves actors with dissimilar perspectives, norms, and values. Different actors and perspectives need to be dealt with, and clear solutions or mechanisms to assess progress and success are either lacking or existing. Effective management mechanisms to generate sustainable solutions is therefore sought due to the lack of direction and coordination associated with governance networks in general, and the effect of existing forms of government and planning in the context of long-term change in society. In effect, this implies a new balance between state, market, and society and new ways to relate and make as effective as possible the informal network processes through which alternative problem definitions, ambitions, solutions, and agendas are generated that are often seen as important in fueling regular policymaking processes with new problem definitions, ambitions, solutions, and agendas (Héritier, 1999). Modernized societies are confronted with many complex and unstructured problems for which long-term solution strategies need to be developed.


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