

**COMPENSATION VALUATION FOR THE
RESETTLEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES IN BAKUN HYDROELECTRIC DAM,
SARAWAK, MALAYSIA**

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
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**COMPENSATION VALUATION FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN BAKUN HYDROELECTRIC DAM,
SARAWAK, MALAYSIA**

By

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**Thesis submitted to
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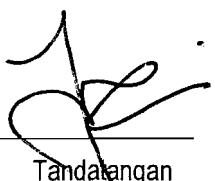
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ABSTRACT

Compensation for indigenous communities as a result of development projects has been a controversial subject. The elements of rights, entitlements, freedom and justice are often difficult to value and left out in the compensation processes. Most of the compensation packages given to the indigenous communities are in-use values and non-use values are often ignored. The non-use values which include environmental, social and cultural values are very difficult to determine and often not compensated by government. These non-use values are more important compared with use values to the indigenous communities. In this study, a sample of 379 settlers in Sungai Asap Resettlement Scheme relocated as a result of the Bakun Hydroelectric Dam Project in Malaysia is surveyed to estimate the satisfaction with compensation as perceived by the settlers. The data was collected from September 2012 to December 2012. Logistic regressions models were used to identify the components of valuation of displacement cost that affect the settlers' satisfaction with compensation. The study of compensation valuation can result in better policies for compensating people affected by large projects. These policies will incorporate aspects of welfare more effectively thus increasing legitimacy for agencies involved in the relocation of communities. The findings showed that gaps in land compensation (differences in expected compensation and actual compensation paid out by state authorities) can result in dissatisfaction towards compensation. Besides that, environmental value (non-use value) perceived by the settlers is found to be significant in affecting probability of dissatisfaction towards compensation. The most important finding is that the lack of freedom and rights of settlers to participate in resettlement processes bring about dissatisfaction towards compensation. This has policy implication for government initiatives on compensation. An institutional avenue to consult and discuss the compensation figures with the settlers should be present to ensure agreeable compensation.

Keywords: compensation valuation, hydroelectric dam, use values, non-use values, freedom and rights

ABSTRAK

Pampasan yang diberikan kepada komuniti yang dipindahkan akibat daripada projek pembangunan menjadi isu yang kontroversi. Unsur-unsur kebebasan dan hak asasi adalah susah dinilai dan diketepikan semasa proses pampasan dilakukan. Kebanyakan pakej pampasan yang diberikan kepada komuniti orang asli adalah dalam nilai pasaran, manakala nilai bukan pasaran sering tidak diambil kira. Nilai bukan pasaran seperti nilai alam semulajadi, nilai soesial dan nilai budaya sering diketepikan semasa proses pampasan. Berbanding dengan nilai pasaran, nilai bukan pasaran ini adalah lebih penting kepada komuniti orang asli. Dalam kajian ini seramai 379 sampel komuniti yang terpaksa berpindah ke kawasan Perpindahan Sungai Asap disoal selidik untuk mengganggar tahap kepuasan terhadap pampasan yang dinilai oleh komuniti tersebut akibat daripada Projek Empangan Hidroelektrik Bakun di Malaysia. Data dikutip dari bulan September hingga Disember 2012. Model-model regresi logit telah digunakan untuk mengenalpasti komponen penilaian kos yang mempengaruhi kepuasan komuniti yang dipindahkan ke penempatan baru. Hasil kajian penting untuk polisi yang lebih baik bagi membayar pampasan yang lebih menyeluruh untuk meningkatkan kebijakan komuniti yang dipindahkan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa nilai jurang dalam pampasan tanah (hasil ditolak pampasan yang diharap oleh komuniti yang dipindahkan dan pampasan yang diberi oleh pihak berkuasa) boleh menyebabkan ketidakpuasan komuniti terhadap pampasan. Selain itu, kekurangan nilai alam semulajadi (nilai bukan pasaran) juga boleh menyebabkan ketidakpuasan komuniti terhadap pampasan. Sumbangan yang paling utama daripada hasil kajian mendapati bahawa tidak ada kebebasan dan hak asasi komuniti yang terlibat untuk memberikan pandangan dan suara semasa proses perpindahan dan pampasan menyebabkan ketidakpuasan komuniti terhadap pampasan. Hal ini memerlukan pihak berkuasa untuk merancang dan menyediakan institusi bagi membincangkan nilai pasaran dan nilai bukan pasaran dengan komuniti yang dipindahkan untuk mencapai persetujuan dalam pampasan.

Kata kunci: penilaian pampasan, empangan hidroelektrik, nilai pasaran, nilai bukan pasaran, kebebasan dan hak asasi

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ABBREVIATIONS

WCD	World Commission on Dams
VIF	Variance Inflation Factor
MNL	Multinomial Logit Model
OLS	Ordinary Least Square
WTP	Willingness to Pay
WTA	Willingness to Accept

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Bakun hydroelectric dam project has raised much controversy among the local residents and non-governmental organization when it was first proposed in early 1980. The worries are whether the Bakun hydroelectric dam project can improve the welfare of the people of Sarawak and contribute to the development of Malaysia. The resettlement issue is of particular importance to the indigenous communities as they will experience changes in their welfare once the Bakun hydroelectric dam project is implemented.

The idea to build the Bakun hydroelectric dam was mooted by the then Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad with the objective to exploit the hydroelectric potential of the Sarawak river in order to supply cost-effective and clean hydroelectricity to Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak and bring development to the indigenous people through more industrial development and employment. The Bakun project is part of “Electricity Master Plan for Sarawak” undertaken by Sarawak Electricity Supply Company (SESCO).

The Bakun hydroelectric dam is very important to Sarawak’s economy and the Malaysian economy as a whole as it can generate 2400MW of power capacity. This can increase the economic growth of Sarawak and Malaysia. It is believed that Bakun hydroelectric dam project can also bring benefits such as irrigation and recreation and tourism. Malaysia faced power supply problems in the 1980’s. The national grid then

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