UTAR NEW VILLAGE PROJECT COMMUNITY REPORT

NAME OF NEW VILLAGE:
SUNGAI RUAL (SEBERANG JELI) 斯邦吉利
KELANTAN

Project carried out by:

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<th>Student name</th>
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**ABSTRACT**

Kampung Sungai Rual Orang Asli (Jeli) was established in the 1960’s. It is located in the district of Daerah Jeli, Dun Air Lanas in the state of Kelantan. The town closest to this village is Bandar Jeli. The main attractions in Sg Rual are the Orang Asli settlement and their signature dance, Tarian Sewang. Oil palm and rubber plantations provide villagers with their main source of income.
INTRODUCTION

The wonderful and peaceful Sungai Rual Orang Asli (Jeli) is located in Daerah Jeli, Dun Air Lanas, Kelantan. This village was established on the year 1960. Although not many outsiders know about this village, this project team found that Jeli is exquisite in its own way and is a place worth exploring.

Roads and bridges provide access around this village and also connect it to the nearest town, Bandar Jeli which is about 5km away. This village was established after the period of Emergency in Malaya.

Currently, the headman of the village is Mr. Abdul Rashid bin Bernan who is in charge of new development projects. He also handles the villagers’ problems as well as safety and security matters in the village.

*The headman, Abdul Rashid bin Bernas*
POPULATION, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Sg Rual has a population of 566 villagers. The population has grown very slowly over the past decade. There are about 156 houses in this village. A majority of adult villagers work in the surrounding rubber and oil palm plantations.

Villagers have access to piped water supply (handled by JKR) and electricity. Garbage disposal is handled by the local municipal council and pour flush system is used for sewage disposal. Both fixed line and mobile phone services are available.

Villagers who have their own vehicles will travel by motorbikes or cars. Others walk to their destinations. The absence of public transport causes great inconvenience, especially when they seek medical care and other services in nearby towns.
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

As mentioned earlier, most of the villagers work in the rubber and oil palm smallholdings and plantations. On a daily basis, the rubber tappers start work at approximately 4am and end their work day at about 6pm. They rarely work after 6p.m because of wild animals in this area. There is no particular “off” day for the estate workers. However, they are sometimes unable to work on rainy days. In total, there are about 300 acres of oil palm estates and 200 acres of rubber estates in this area. Most villagers earn about RM550 per month.

Some villagers rear chickens and cows on a small scale. Many of them chop down trees in the surrounding forests to build or upgrade their own houses.
SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Most villagers are Muslims and Hari Raya Aidifitri is the main festival held in Sg Rual. There are two main ethnic groups: Kaum Jahai and Kaum Batik. Because of the composition of its population, the main language spoken is Bahasa Melayu. Places of worship include 2 surau, found within the settlement.
EDUCATION

There is a Kindergarten and a primary school in Sg. Rual Orang Asli. The kindergarten, Tadika Kemas, was built about 10 years ago. Currently, it has only 30 students, 2 teachers and 1 assistant teacher. Sek. Keb.Sg. Rual is the only school in this village. It has about 120 students and 15 teachers. There is no secondary school, library, bookstore or other sources of education material. According to the headman, none of the villagers has enrolled in a tertiary education institution so far.
PROBLEMS

The main challenges brought up by villagers are listed below:

1. No secondary school in the village. Village children who wish to study beyond primary school level have to travel to nearby towns. This is an inconvenience which is compounded by the absence of public transport.

2. Land ownership issues to be settled with FELDA and RISDA.

3. Floods during the rainy season. The drainage system needs to be improved to prevent flooding in the village.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The village headman made some recommendation for the development of the village. First, there is a request for the authorities (JAKWA) to build more houses for villagers. Education resources such as a library or bookstores are not available. Perhaps mobile libraries/resource centres could help the small population in this village. The authorities and villagers need to communicate and settle outstanding issues regarding land ownership.

DISCLAIMER:

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