

Answers to the Official Statement of SSKM-SSU (UK) to Uqbah Iqbal's Article

Uqbah Iqbal*

School of History, Politics and Strategy, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM 43650, BangiSelangor, Malaysia

Before this, I had published an article entitled "Opinion on SSKM and Sabah Country Myth" in Arts and Social Sciences Journal, Volume 7, Issue 2, 2016 [1]. An official statement issued by Sabah Sarawak Union - United Kingdom (SSU-UK) on 9 September 2016 [2], and the case went viral on facebook. I will elaborate on my article to resolve all the questions raised. Before that, let me explain the methodology of history. Writing is to use screening and writing methods from the point of history. This means that the subject matter of the study is the use of resources, especially archive files and data from government organizations, whether printed or not printed. The initial phase of the research is to identify and collect resources. This is done by conducting research in libraries, archives and government organizations as well as by means of external studies. In the second stage the researcher make verification and manipulation of resources. The results of the information obtained is assessed and analyzed by the researcher and this understanding is the third stage in the process of research which makes interpretation of sources. At the same time, the researcher also compiled resources according to priorities and the extent of the contribution of these sources to writing later. Finally writing made and this is the last stage in the research process [3]. Dear Doris Jones as founder of Sabah Sarawak Union - United Kingdom, did you follow all these rules? The answer is NO.

For the first question from you, the status of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a country in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Country in terms of culture in English called a nation, country in terms of geographical in English called a country and country in terms of politics in English called a state. But seeing the country definition in the Oxford dictionary is not enough [4]. Your understanding confusion concerning the country means negara entirely in Malay Language because in English Language, sometimes the word country is used to refer both to sovereign states and to other political entities, while other times it refers only to states. For example, the CIA World Factbook uses the word in its "Country name" field to refer to "a wide variety of dependencies, areas of special sovereignty, uninhabited islands, and other entities in addition to the traditional countries or independent states" [5]. According to Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Dictionary, definition of negara is a group of people who inhabit an area, have political sovereignty and government machinery (18). The meaning of sovereignty is the exclusive right to fully master an administrative area and the people. Where is Sabah's sovereignty as a country once under the rule of the Sultanate of Brunei, the Sultanate of Sulu, North Borneo Chartered Company, the Japanese and British before the formation of Malaysia in 1963?

As you know the Malay Language is different from the English Language. In fact, every language in the world is different between one another. Dear Doris, you have a serious linguistic problem on this issue. The country words used by authors in your references are by their grammatical understanding, not ours. Let me explain in simple languages. Country, nation and state (in some cases), all of which means negara in the Malay Language. But we have to know the difference meaning despite only that word is available. Although the status of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a country

in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, but if the country word was translated into the Malay Language, it means wilayah because each of them are not sovereign states according to international law. The country word is used to refer political entities within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland [6,7]. Strictly speaking, a country is not necessarily the same thing as a sovereign state [8]. Why I use the word country in the first article as it is translated from negara in the Malay language. Maybe next time I should change it to a sovereign state, which means negara berdaulat in the Malay language for deeper understanding.

To establish a new country that according to the concept of a sovereign state in the Malay language, there are various aspects that should be followed and I'll touch on some key aspects, namely the country must first satisfy the international laws rules that all free countries generally acknowledge and follow set forth by the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, adopted in 1933. The Montevideo Convention requires that a country must declare its intentions. The country must be able to enter into relations with other sovereign states. In order to be legitimate, a new country must be recognized by existing states within the international community. The United Nations asserts that, because it itself is not a country, it does not possess any authority to recognize a state or government. But being admitted into the U.N. goes a long way toward a new country becoming recognized by the international community [9]. Through all of this method, do North Borneo before the formation of Malaysia ever through it? The answer is NO. Have even one country in the world recognize North Borneo as a sovereign state? The answer is NO.

Dear Doris, now I will comment on the resources you use. You'll find we're both using the same source but you interpret it at will. W.H. Treacher, C.M.G., M.A. Oxon in the article "British Borneo: Sketches of Brunai, Sarawak, Labuan and North Borneo" explain "A British Protectorate was established over North Borneo on the 12th May, over Sarawak on the 14th June, and over Brunai on the 19th September, 1888" on page 6 [10]. Rizal Zamani Idris, Bilcher Bala and Azizan H. Morshidi in the article "Sabah (Malaysia) - Australia Relations: An Historical Observation" said "Sabah gained its independence through the concept of "federation of colonies", which was a merging of the Malayan Federation, Singapore, and Sarawak to form the Malaysian Federation in 1963" on page 152 and "In 1946, the ruling of Sabah and Sarawak was given to the British government with the major

*Corresponding author: Iqbal U, School of History, Politics and Strategy, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM 43650, BangiSelangor, Malaysia, Tel: +60389215555; E-mail: uqbah@siswa.ukm.edu.my

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intend to redevelop the colonies that have been destroyed during the war.” on page 160 [11]. Tom Harrisson in the article “The Prehistory of Borneo” said “These three territories were each separate colonies under British rule during most of that period” on page 17 [12]. If we look at Whelan’s writing in the book “Stories from Sabah History”, it is suitable for students from form 2 and 3, is it relevant to academic discussions at the highest level? [13] Stockwell in the book “Malaysia”, said “Of the participating countries, only North Borneo and Sarawak were crown colonies, and, in a manner of speaking, only North Borneo and Sarawak were being decolonised. Indeed, as the final touches were put to Malaysia, the British presented it to the United Nations, not as a new state, but as an extension of an existing member-state, that is to say an extension of the independent Federation of Malaya to which Sabah (North Borneo), Sarawak and Singapore merely acceded” in the introduction [14].

Dear Doris, you only display 5 resources, 4 from British and one from Malaysia to strengthen the argument of Sabah is a country, while I display 19 sources, with 7 from Malaysia including Sabah authors. Isn't it weird when discussions about your own country, you may glorify the use of foreign sources of local people? The writing of history is to be written objectively, founded by Leopold Von Ranke (1795-1886). The goal of historical writing is to describe the events “as it really happened” by let the facts of history speak for itself without the involvement of historians. There are some guidelines such as present pure facts, eroding prejudice, avoiding moral judgement and so on [15]. Lord Acton (1834-1902) states that let historians’ illustration about the events similar only to satisfy all parties without any subjective feelings or bias [16].

Dear Doris, your sources years are 1891, 1968, 1970, 2004 and 2013 [11,13-18], while my sources years are 1899, 1900, 1947, 1952, 1968, 1970, 1978, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2015 and 2015 [19-35]. Between these alternating periods, our reference authors cannot standardise whether Sabah a country or not? Source document of the United Nations (UN) entitled Classification of Countries by major area and Region of the World lists Sabah and Sarawak which is an autonomous region as part of the formation of Malaysia. Both in the footnote, not in the article as the name of the country [36]. Do you alert about the status of all other territories in the footnote too? About “Olympic Games” and “Yang Dipertua Negara Sabah” status [37-39] was discussed in my previous article, please refer back. Finally, the question of whether or not Sabah a country from the definition of the Malay Language can be seen from its ability to implement all the features of a country according to historical records, rather than through word of mouth, own book publication, own perception or recognition of individuals only [40]. If we really love our Sabah homeland, we will not betray the struggle of our ancestors, but we continue to maintain their heritage for our children and grandchildren.

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