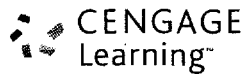

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN MALAYSIA



Edited by
ABDUL RASHID MOTEN

Government and Politics in Malaysia

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Abdul Rashid Moten



Australia • Brazil • Japan • Korea • Mexico • Singapore • Spain • United Kingdom • United States



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Government and Politics in Malaysia

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Development in Malaysia: An Overview

The term “development” has been used rather casually which has given rise to confusion. The discussion of development is often tied to such questions as: Why are poor countries poor and rich countries rich? How can poor countries prosper? How can poor countries catch up with rich countries? In this sense, an important dimension of the concept of “development” refers to economic growth or more precisely growth of national income per capita. However, economic development is more than economic growth. It refers to growth accompanied by qualitative changes in the structure of production and employment, generally referred to as “structural change.” Of particular importance for developing economies are increases in the share of the dynamic industrial sector in national output and employment as well as “technological change” i.e., the ongoing process of change in process and product technologies, resulting in radically new modes of production and new product range.

Many scholars argue that development must lead to a change in the living conditions of the masses. They stress that development should result in a decrease in poverty and malnutrition, decline in income inequality, and an improvement in the employment situation. Development should bring about positive change in “social indicators” like life expectancy, literacy, levels of education, infant mortality, availability of telephones, hospital beds, and licensed doctors. Scholars agree that, especially in the poorest countries, growth is a prerequisite for development, while development involves more than just growth. Social scientists therefore argue that development is to be viewed not merely in terms of economics but also in terms of changes in family structures, attitudes and mentalities, cultural changes, demographic developments, political changes and nation building, the transformation of rural societies and processes of