

# **TRADITIONAL FOOD WRAPPING AND PACKAGING: CULTURE AND IDENTITY OF THE SARIBAS MALAY, SARAWAK**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper analyses the basic principles of food wrapping and packaging practiced by the Saribas Malay in Sarawak, focusing on the aspect of technology, roles, materials of the traditional means. The main purpose of this study is to discover how this part of the Saribas Malay's culture, cuisine is interpreted in the form of indigenous scientific knowledge and technology, and art. Interviews and observation wrapping. This little effort and attempt is hoped to conserve the traditional food have been conducted in several villages in Saribas such as Betong, Pusa, Beladin, Debak and Spaoh to gather information and identify individuals with knowledge and skills in food knowledge, the representational of culture and identity of the Saribas Malay.

**Keywords:** *traditional food knowledge, indigenous technology, wrapping, Saribas Malay, culture*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 *The Place and People***

Saribas region is located at the south of Sarawak, is comprised of five districts – Betong, Spaoh, Debak, Pusa and Meludam is under the jurisdiction of the Betong Division administration. The Malays constitute the majority of the people in Betong. According to data released in 2013 by the Sarawak Planning Unit (SPU), 35, 917 is Malay, 62% of the total 57,730 population is Malay.

According to Sandin (1969) and Sanib Said (2012, 2013), the Malays of Saribas was originated from two roots; Abang Gudam from Pagaruyung, Minangkabau Sumatera and Temenggong Kadir from Brunei.

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