

SCOPE AND METHOD

The research for this subject was done jointly by Miss Amina Degani and myself, as we are dealing with different aspects of the same topic. This allowed us to double check the material collected. Common questionnaires were used.¹ Due to the shortage of time, we were unable to visit the whole of the Federation.²

Most of the material was obtained from the Land and District Offices and the Registries of Deeds and Titles. The data obtained was not of a uniform nature, because methods of Land Administration vary in the different States, due to historical reasons. The material obtained was, therefore, checked against original grants and titles of the estates concerned.³ In some of the Land and District Offices, subdivision files were not available as such, and the information was, therefore, obtained from the Registry of Titles or Deeds in the form of transfers of land owned by Europeans or British registered companies to Asians. All such transfers have to be submitted quarterly to the Federal Authorities. In the Labour Department, we had access to some non-confidential files. As a result of this difference in the sources from which the information was collected, the data obtained from the various states is of an ununiform nature.

We interviewed, where possible, heads of Land and Labour Offices, officers of the Rubber Industries Replanting Boards, and a few land and

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1. Appendix A I and II; Refer, also, Table A: Scope of Exercise.
 2. The Itinerary is given in Appendix A III.
 3. Grants are issued in respect of first alienation of land. All subsequent transfers and subdivisions are recorded in the form of Certificate of Titles. This applies to the whole of the Federation, with the exception of Malacca.

share brokers. Unfortunately, not all of the above mentioned persons provided us with the necessary information. This was often due to the fact that the officer had been in the district for a few months at the most; for example, the Commissioners of Lands and Mines for Malacca and Johore and the District Officers of Butterworth and Kuala Lumpur. Others who could have given us the information were unwilling to do so.

Information from the remaining States was obtained by post, by means of two questionnaires sent to the respective Commissioners of Lands and Mines.¹ Some of the response was fairly satisfactory, while other Commissioners failed to acknowledge receipt of our letters (e.g. Kelantan and Selangor). The answers we obtained through the postal method were not always complete; and we had no means of verifying the answers received.

On the whole, the field work was carried out in the very short period of three weeks, and the writing of the exercise was done between about 1st August, 1959 and 15th September, 1959.

I wish to acknowledge my thanks to Ungku Abdul Aziz for his thorough supervision and help in the research and writing of this exercise. My thanks are also due to all the departmental heads mentioned above.

1. The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources' letter of introduction and our letter of correspondence is given in Appendix A IV and V. The list of Literature consulted is given in Appendix A VI.

TABLE A

SCOPE OF EXERCISE

STATE	DISTRICTS	REMARKS
JOHORE	(1) Johore Bahru, Muar, Batu Pahat, Kluang.	Visited
	(2) Segamat, Pontian, Kota Tinggi, Mersing.	Information obtained from the Registry of Titles, Johore Bahru.
MALACCA	(1) Malacca	Visited
	(2) Jasin and Alor Gajah	Information obtained from the Registry of Titles, Malacca.
NEGRI SEMBILAN	(1) Seremban	Visited
	(2) Kuala Pilah, Rembau, Tampin, Jelebu, Port Dickson.	Information obtained from the Registry of Titles, Seremban.
SELANGOR	(1) Kuala Lumpur	Visited: Information on subdivision inadequate.
	(2) Klang, Kuala Selangor, Ulu Selangor, Kuala Dangkat, Ulu Langkat.	No information obtained - because unable to visit districts.
PERAK	(1) Larut and Matang, Dindings.	Information received by post.
	(2) Upper Perak	No problem of subdivision.
	(3) Kuala Kangsar and Batang Padang	No replies to questionnaires.
	(4) Lower Perak	Inadequate answers received by post.
	(5) Kinta and Krian	No cooperation.

STATE	DISTRICTS	REMARKS
PENANG	(1) Penang Island, Butterworth, (P.W.N.), Nibong Tebal (P.W.S.), Bukit Mertajam (P.W.C.).	Visited
KEDAH	10 Districts	Inadequate answers received to the questionnaires.
PERLIS		No problem of subdivision.
KELANTAN		No acknowledgement to letters sent.
TRENGGANU		No problem of subdivision.
PAHANG	(1) Kuantan, Lipis, Cameron Highlands, Raub, Pekan. (2) Temeloh and Jerantut (3) Bentong	No problem of subdivision. No cooperation. Information received by post.

INTRODUCTION

The following exercise covers a statistical analysis of the data available to me on the break-up of rubber estates in the Federation of Malaya since 1956 (i.e. pre and post Merdeka period). It also tries to explain the predominant economic, social, administrative and political factors which have influenced its pattern and development over that period of time.

The key terms, as used in the exercise are defined below. The definitions of other legal terms are given in Appendix A VII.

Definitions:

1. A Rubber Estate is a holding of 100 acres and above.
2. The "Break-up" of a rubber estate takes place when:-
 - (i) a whole estate is sold and the area is subdivided by the new owner(s);
 - (ii) parts of an estate are sold off to different buyers;
 - (iii) an estate owner subdivides his rubber estate for a specific purpose;
 - (iv) the rubber estate of a diseased person is subdivided among his beneficiaries.
3. Subdivision: In the terminology of the Land Office, "subdivision" takes place when a particular title to the land is surrendered to the Government for the issue of two or more new titles in its place. This can only take place after a resurvey of the land.