

# RESETTLEMENT OF THE ORANG ASLI AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY IN MALAYSIA

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## ABSTRACT

This article discusses the concept of Orang Asli used in the Malaysian Law under the Orang Asli Act 1954 (Act 134) that defines specifically to "any person whose male parent is or was, a member of an aboriginal ethnic group, who speaks an aboriginal language and habitually follows an aboriginal way of life and aboriginal customs and beliefs, and includes a descendant through males of such persons." The Orang Asli community till today is underdeveloped in many aspects namely economy, social and professional. To facilitate improvement to these problems and issues, the government implemented various programmes. The varied programmes include personality development to resettlement in order to improve the living standards of this community. This article discusses the programmes for the Orang Asli minority implemented to elevate them towards the desired national sustainable development levels.

*Keywords: Definition of Orang Asli, Development Plan, Minority Development, Orang Asli, Resettlement of Orang Asli.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the Malaysia Laws (Act 134), Orang Asli Act 1954 (Reviewed 1974), Phase 3(1) defined Orang Asli (OA) as:

- (a) any person whose male parent is or was, a member of an aboriginal ethnic group, who speaks an aboriginal language and habitually follows an aboriginal way of life and aboriginal customs and beliefs, and includes a descendant through males of such persons;
- (b) any person of any race adopted when an infant by aborigines who has been brought up as an aborigine, habitually speaks an aboriginal language, habitually follows an aboriginal way of life and aboriginal customs and beliefs and is a member of an aboriginal community; or
- (c) the child of any union between an aboriginal female and a male of another race, provided that the child habitually speaks an aboriginal language, habitually follows an aboriginal way of life and aboriginal customs and beliefs and remains a member of an aboriginal community.

Resettlement (displacement or rehabilitation) is a form of planned migration. This process can be undertaken as voluntary resettlement, induced displacement or by force, involuntary

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resettlement, forced relocation by authorities which are in power. Resettlement can also be divided into three, based on the reason for their moving. First, is due to political conflict that is conflict-induced displacement, second, environmental-induced displacement and third, due to development projects namely development-induced displacements (Messay & Bekure, 2011). Another type of resettlement is Refugee Resettlement. The above is not voluntary resettlement but has to be done forcefully for the safety of one and one's family due to economy and political conflicts in a country or race. Those who move or shift, due to natural calamities, are also referred to as environmental migrants or climate refugees. It is estimated that around 200 million people have been moved due natural calamities.

According to Gray and Elliott (2001), terms used for resettlement include acculturation, biculturalism, multiculturalism, marginalization, assimilation, integration and segregation. Resettlement can refer to the process of settlement or results of resettlement. Settlement refers to the adaptability of their initial shifting or moving. After they move, the process of integration and assimilation will take place. Integration is a long process where the newcomers will be on the same level as all dimensions of the population. Assimilation takes place when the identity of the newcomers slowly melts into the dominant society. Integration refers to a situation where a group interacts with the larger society and retains its own identity as well. In general, there is no uniform definition of resettlement.

## 2. RESETTLEMENT OF THE ORANG ASLI

Most of these new development areas are in interior areas and are OA villages. The characteristics of development are projects like the construction of hydroelectric plants, highways, gas-pipes (LPG), mines and development programmes and others. At the international level, between 1998 and 2005, around 605 development projects were undertaken which involved the moving of the OA to resettlement areas and the most number were undertaken in China and India. From this number, only 22 percent of the development projects involved the moving out of the OA who to new resettlement areas (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Development Programmes that involved resettlement of the OA, 1998-2005

Country	Projects that had resettlement plans		
	No of Projects	No	%
China	64	23	36
Laos	21	18	86
Viet Nam	40	18	45
India	53	17	32
Indonesia	40	14	35
Nepal	22	9	41
Cambodia	26	8	31
Sri Lanka	41	7	17
Bangladesh	35	6	17
Philippines	35	4	11
Pakistan	54	4	7
Uzbekistan	16	3	19
Afghanistan	12	2	17
Kyrgyz Republic	16	1	6
Mongolia	17	1	6
Other countries <sup>a</sup>	91	0	0

<sup>a</sup>Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

(Source: ADB (2007))

Successful resettlement projects due to construction of hydroelectric dams are projects like China's Shuikou and Yantandams. Construction of these dams began in 1987 and the people began to move between 1990 and 1992. The project in the Min Jiang River involved the moving of around 15,600 families from the rural areas (67,200 people) and around 20,000 people in the town areas, including 3,900 people (17,200 of the population) from Nanping City. Those who were involved in the resettlement were very happy with the new settlement areas provided as it increased their income level and quality of life compared with prior to moving to the resettlement areas (Picciotto et al., 2001; World Bank, 1998).

However, there are resettlement programmes which have failed. According to Mengistu Woube who conducted research in the Gambela area in Ethiopia in 2005, many of the resettlement projects were only short-term. This project moved on its own and was not a development programme. This led to conflicts in land acquisition, deforestation, floods, food shortage and the spread of many diseases. One such project which failed is the Chixoy Hydroelectric Project. This project which was constructed between 1976 and 1985 was developed by the Guatemalan National Electrification Institute (INDE), which was sponsored by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Around 3,400 people were involved in the resettlement. Even though the World Bank has policies in place which provide that potential participants to be given compensation, that is equivalent to the quality of life which they enjoyed prior to moving. However, after moving they did not receive adequate compensation. In 1992, the OA known as the Maya Achi Indians (Rio Negro) in Baja Verapaz, Guatemala did not agree with the resettlement and revolted against the army and this resulted in the death of around 440 OA (Levy, 2002).

According to the COHRE Mission Report (2004), the few internal reports released by the IDB and the World Bank refer to problems with resettlement, but make no mention whatsoever of the appalling fact that, shortly before the reservoir filled, hundreds of people who were supposed to be resettled were actually murdered instead. To this day, both institutions deny any knowledge of, or responsibility for, the role that they played in the massacres through their financial backing of the Chixoy Dam Project. However, in 1991, the World Bank alluded to the problems that occurred in relation to the Chixoy Dam Project in a confidential Project Completion Report. The report noted that the resettlement plans were "conceptually ... seriously flawed" and also mentioned delays in implementing the program due to intensive insurgency activity in the project area during the years 1980-1983.

Other new resettlement area is the Phulbari Coal Project in Bangladesh. This project involves the moving of the Santal, Munda and Mahili OA groups, the oldest OA community in Southern Asia (Kate, 2012). The resettlement programme for around 400 OA families involves the LNG programme in Papua New Guinea (ESSO, 2010). The railway track projects from Delhi and Mumbai and to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra that involves the moving of 38,310 people including some OA villages (Ministry of Railways India, 2011).

Included are the electric wires and cable projects in Sri Lanka, which involves around 436 households (CEB, 2012). The Lao Nam Theun II Hydroelectric (Viet Nam) project takes up the Nakai Plateau area which involves around 1,149 households. This involves 16 of the 17 OA villages in that area. The Indonesian Tangguh Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project involves the resettlement of 127 families (694 people) from the Tennah Merah Race and the acquisition of 3,466 hectares of Samuri land (ethnic Sowai, Wayuri and Simuna). Other country is the construction of the 121-kilometer-long rail line of the Guizhou-Shuibai

Railway Project in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) that involves the resettlement of at least 210 households belonging minority races of the OA (ADB, 2007).

In Laos, since 2001, the resettlement of villages, including resettlement of OA villages is one of the main strategies used to develop the rural areas. The main objective of the Lao Revolutionary Party’s Socio-economic Strategy for Poverty Reduction” is to reduce poverty, increase educational opportunities for the rural communities, overcome the slash and burn cultivation of crops and increase the productivity rate of the country. Undertake shifting cultivation or move because of traditional reasons or beliefs which are still practised amongst the OA. Biddle’s research of 2009 on the OA in Australia finds that the OA move more often. Between 2001 till 2006, 46.5 percent of the OA moved from one place to another. However, 80 percent of the country is covered by mountains and many of the villages are isolated and located far in the interior. For economic reasons, the rural areas can be integrated into the district development programmes, residents from villages that are in the interior areas are moved to areas that are close to the town areas.

A positive outcome or result of the resettlement programme of villages is rise in the standard of education (in the case of Laos, more people are able to speak the Lao Language) and the increase in the rate of school attendance, increase in the standard of health and economic integration between the rural areas and the town areas (increases productivity of industries). Whereas, the negative result of the resettlement programme, especially in the early stages when the residents first move to new settlements is the drastic unsuitability of living conditions. The shortage of food, rise in communicable diseases (diarrhoea, malaria, respiratory diseases, and psychological disorders), socio-cultural breakdowns (Kevin et al., 2010), and loss of assets, both financial and symbolical with traditional functions often becomes obsolete in the process (Romagny, 2004).

### 3. DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY

The administration of the OA community began during the British ruling. In 1936 the British government in Perak appointed a field ethnographer to administer the affairs of the OA. In 1954 the Aboriginal Peoples Ordinance No.3 was enforced to allocate funds for the protection and development of the OA in Malaya. Following the enforcement of this Act, the Department of Orang Asli was established with the main objective of increasing the safety of the OA from negative communists influence. The evolution of the administration and development planning of the OA can be summarized as in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Evolution of the Administration and Development Planning of the OA, 1939-2011

Year	Name	Ministry	Incident
1939	Field Ethnographer		A 'Field Ethnographer' was appointed in December 1939, as 'Protector of Aborigines' for the state of Perak. This appointment was made after the implementation of the 'Perak Aboriginal Tribes Enactment', No.3 in 1939. This Enactment was the law that existed prior to the Second World War.
1948	Field Ethnographer		When Emergency was declared in 1948, MPAJA was changed to the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) to have better ties with the Orang Asli in the interior. Realising the threat posed by the spread of communism, the government decided to pay more attention by having the resettlement of the of the Orang Asli programme in areas far from

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			communists influence. However, this step was not successful. On the contrary, the Orang Asli became closer to the CPM and adopted an anti-government attitude.
1949	Welfare Officer Aborigines		In 1949, the 'Welfare Officer Aborigines', a federal post, was appointed to administer the Orang Asli welfare Office which became a section under the Department of Welfare. This officer was later changed to 'Protector of Aborigines' or Adviser of the Orang Asli. The adviser was responsible to the Chief Secretary and State Chief Secretary, who were responsible to the High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States.
1951 - 1952	Orang Asli Office		In 1951-1952, with the introduction of the Member System, the Orang Asli Office was established separate from the Welfare Department and its portfolio was placed under the Welfare Department and under the portfolio of the Member for Home Office. At this time, the office at the Federal level had 11 staff and at the State level there was a 'Protector' in Pahang and a few part-time 'Protectors' in Perak and Kelantan.
1953	Welfare Office for the Orang Asli		In 1953, a new policy was adopted whereby the government channelled administrative and protection issues of the interior Orang Asli and did not try to bring them out of the interior areas where they lived. Following this, the Welfare Office for the Orang Asli was extended.
1953 – 1954	Department of Orang Asli (JOA)	Ministry of Home Affairs	The Department of Orang Asli Malaysia was established in 1954 under a new law called Aboriginal People's Ordinance No. 3, 1954. It was enacted to protect the Orang Asli from rapid development and exploitation, besides setting up facilities for education and suitable development for them.
1955	Department of Orang Asli	Ministry of Home Affairs.	After the 1955 elections, with the introduction of the Cabinet system to replace the Member system, the Orang Asli was placed under the Home Affairs Ministry.
1956	Department of Museum, Archives and Research for the Orang Asli	Education Ministry	In December 1956, the Department of Orang Asli was changed to the Department of Museum, Archives and Research for the Orang Asli which was placed under the Education Ministry. The name of Head of Department was also changed from Adviser for the Orang Asli to Director of Museums and Adviser to the Orang Asli.
1961	Department of Orang Asli	Ministry of Home Affairs	Only after 1961 did the government declare a policy of administration for the Orang Asli. The objective of this policy was to integrate the Orang Asli with the national communities. In order to achieve this objective, the Department of Orang Asli began to plan and undertake socio-economic development programmes so that the Orang Asli community's development could be the same as that of the other communities and enjoy a higher standard of living.
1964	Department of Orang Asli (JHEOA)	Ministry of Home Affairs	In 1957, there were Protectors' and 'Assistant Protectors' in all states except in Penang, Malacca, Kedah, Perlis and Terengganu. In August 1959, the Department of Orang Asli was again placed under the Home Affairs Ministry. On 16 May 1964 control of this Department was

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			undertaken by the Ministry of Land and Mines. The Head of Department at that time was the Commissioner for Orang Asli Affairs.
1970	Department of Orang Asli Affairs	Ministry of Home Affairs	The Cabinet reshuffled on 23 September, 1970 placed Department of Orang Asli Affairs under the Ministry of Land and Agriculture.
1971	Department of Orang Asli Affairs	Ministry of National and Urban Development	The Cabinet re-shuffled again on 21 December, 1971 placed the JHEOA under the Ministry of National and Urban Development and was administered by a Director who was assisted by six Directors at the state level. This Department was responsible for administration, development and welfare of the Orang Asli in West Malaysia, especially for states with a large number of Orang Asli.
1974	Department of Orang Asli Affairs	Ministry of Home Affairs	Emphasis was also given to socio-economic developments and raising the standard of living of the Orang Asli besides integrating them with the other communities in the country. On 5 September, 1974, with the restructuring of the Cabinet after the elections, the Department of Orang Asli Affairs was placed under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
1990	Department of Orang Asli Affairs	Ministry of Unity and Community Development	On 27 October 1990, this Department was again transferred to the Ministry of Unity and Community Development.
1994	Department of Orang Asli Affairs	Ministry of Rural Development	Effective 1 January 1994, this Department was transferred to be under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development.
1995	Department of Orang Asli Affairs	Ministry of Unity and Community Development	During the restructuring of the Ministries in 1995, this Department was transferred to the Ministry of Unity and Community Development.
2001	Department of Orang Asli Affairs	Ministry of Rural Development.	The restructuring of the Ministries and departments transferred the department to the Ministry of Rural Development.
2003	Department of Orang Asli Affairs(JHEOA)	Ministry of Federal and Rural Development	The change of name from Ministry of Rural Development to Ministry of Federal and Rural Development (KKLW).
2011	Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA)	Ministry of Federal and Rural Development	The change in name and logo of the department from Department of Orang Asli (JHEOA) to Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA) on 14 January 2011

Note: rearranged and changed from the original information from the two sources mentioned below:  
(Source: JAKOA (2011))

After independence in 1957, especially in the era of the New Economic Policy (1971-1990), commencing from the Second Malaysian Plan (1971-1980) till Fifth Malaysian Plan (1986-1990), the economic development plans of the OA were focused on strengthening the national integration spirit, raise the standard of education, establish structured resettlement programmes, opening of new land for agriculture and husbandry, increase basic facilities, medical and health for the OA community. During the era of the National Development Policy (1991-2000), that covers the Sixth Malaysian Plan (1991-1995) and Seventh

Malaysian Plan (1996-2000), the focus of the OA development was through commercial land development programmes, increased education development and skills training. Having counselling for entrepreneurs was also implemented besides increasing the quality of services and public facilities to enhance the quality of life of the OA community.

In the era of the Nation's New Policy (2001-2010) that covered Eighth Malaysian Plan (2001-2005) and Ninth Malaysian Plan (2006-2010) the development of the OA was continued through the human and community development programmes (Model Beings). Amongst them were increased poverty eradication programmes, education programmes through the Education Action Plan for the OA, access to technology information and communication in the OA villages. Further efforts were the Village Information Centre (MID), introduction of relevant eco-tourism initiatives in the OA villages and increased individual land ownership amongst the OA community.

The poverty rate in Malaysia has decreased significantly since 1970. However, there are still poor people, especially those who live far away from mainstream national development. In view of this in the Tenth Malaysian Plan, the focus of distribution was to increase the income level by 40 percent, especially amongst the OA community in Peninsula Malaysia. The objective of Tenth Malaysian Plan was to reduce the incidence of poverty amongst the OA community from 50 percent in 2009 to 25 percent in 2015. Three main strategies to raise the standard of living of the lowest 40 percent were to increase the potential income level through education and entrepreneurship, increase access to basic facilities and undertake special programmes especially for groups that had specific needs (Malaysia, 2011; Asan & Muszafarshah, 2012).

In terms of raising the quality of life through health and education, in the Tenth Malaysian Plan as well, better access to health for the OA community would be enhanced through mobile clinics, including flying doctor services to those who have little or no access to health facilities. In order to increase access to education for the OA community who live in the interior areas (to overcome the problem of drop-outs), the government will increase Special Model Schools that connect primary education with secondary education until Form Three under the same administration of schools, besides increasing accommodation facilities for secondary school students.

The New Economic Model (2011-2020) and the Tenth Malaysian Plan (2011-2015) also continued to give attention on increasing the income level, educational achievement and skills for those households with low income. Strategies were also planned to increase the standard of living for those marginalized from mainstream national economic development that covers the indigenous groups in Sabah, Sarawak, the OA community in the Peninsular, financial aid and increase infrastructure access in the new villages and plantation workers (Asan Ali, 2009; 2010).

The government together with some of its agencies will provide training in entrepreneurship and aid to the OA community to carry out business activities like leisure homes and relevant eco-tourism activities. Besides this, skills training programmes in small businesses through *Jejari Bestari* and Women's Business Incubator (I-KeuNITA) will be extended to the OA community. In addition, to increase the income and efforts amongst the OA community, initiatives will be taken to help them to establish co-operatives to market their produce more effectively. Through this policy, in the initial stages of implementation, the co-operatives will appoint a group of professional management and after the OA community (co-operative

members), acquire the knowledge and skills, the management will be transferred to the co-operative members.

The OA social community will be headed by a *Batin* (OA Leader). The post of the *Batin* can be inherited by the children or chosen by the OA community in their respective area. Through the 1954 Act, *Batin* has been accepted as an official post by the government authorities. Until 2010, there were around 590 OA *Batins* in Peninsular Malaysia who had been officially appointed. The most number were in Pahang 207 *Batins* and in Perak 176 *Batins*. Whereas, the least number were in Kedah, that is, only one *Batin*. The ratio of *Batin* and OA population in Peninsula Malaysia is 302 people for each *Batin* (Table 3). The Minister is given the power to certify the appointment of a *Batin* provided in Section 16(1) of the Act.

**Table 3:** Ratio of *Batin* with the Total Population of OA, 2010

	Total Number of Orang Asli	Number of <i>Batin</i>	Number of <i>Batins</i> compared with the total population of Orang Asli
Pahang	67,506	207	326
Perak	53,299	176	303
Selangor	17,587	54	326
Kelantan	13,457	47	286
Johore	13,139	46	286
N.Sembilan	10,531	50	211
Malacca	1,515	6	253
Terengganu	893	3	298
Kedah	270	1	270
Perlis	-	-	-
Penang	-	-	-
FT KL	-	-	-
FT Putrajaya	-	-	-
Peninsula	178,197	590	302

(Source: JAKOA (2011))

At the village level, the Development Committee and the Orang Asli Security Committee (JKKKOA) was established in 1997 as the administrative machine for the Federal government to implement the administrative and socio-economic developments for the OA community (JAKOA, 2011). From January 2012, the new rate of allowance for the *Batin* for each month is RM800 compared to the previous year according to the category that was set by the related department (JAKOA, 2011). For the Category A *Batins* (RM400), Category B *Batins* (RM300) and Category C they are paid (RM200) (JAKOA, 2011).

#### **4. DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY**

As provided for in the Orang Asli Act, the development programmes for the OA community is directly under the management and administration of JAKOA. Three programmes for the development of the OA are: 1) Structured Resettlement Programme (SRP); 2) Economic Development Programme (EDP); and 3) Social Development Programme (SDP).

##### **4.1 The Structured Resettlement Programme (SRP)**

The objective of this programme is to have a new structured settlement for the OA, which is more organized, complete with basic infrastructure and modern economic sources. Under the SRP, JAKOA undertakes the survey to identify the boundaries of resettlements and land ownership of the OA, for the purpose of gazetting the settlements of the OA community. SRP involves various infra-social components as: first, water supply; second, electricity supply;

third, village roads; and fourth, economic projects. The SRP can be divided into three namely, Resettlement Programme (RP), Village Rearrangement Programme (VRP), and New Villages Programme (NVP).

As summarized in Table 2.9, the evolution of the administration and planning of the OA community, resettlement policies for the OA was undertaken since the emergency (1946-1960) for security purposes to protect the OA from communists influence. After the end of communists' insurgency, in the 1980's the resettlement of the OA policy was more focused on raising their socio-economy profile and quality of their life (Mustaffa, 2008). This programme was undertaken since 1979 in the Fourth Malaysian Plan and later re-enforced in the Fifth Malaysian Plan and Sixth Malaysian Plan as the main strategy to raise further the socio-economic status of the OA community. Through the RP, the OA villages which were dispersed far in the interiors were gathered together in one area that was provided with basic amenities and economic commercial agricultural activities (rubber and palm oil). The families that were involved were transferred to resettlement areas.

Through this planned programmes, amenities were easily made available and effective and was able to prevent the communist elements from influencing the OA in the interior areas. Besides raising the quality of life of the OA, this programme also gave them a chance to be involved in the modern economic activities. Through the rubber and palm oil planting programmes, the OA community received dividends from the crops, besides being given a chance to be plantation workers. Until today, there are about 17 RP, which are six in Perak, seven in Pahang, and three in Kelantan and one in Johore (JAKOA, 2010). Hence, around 14 percent of the OA live in RP areas (Mustaffa, 2008).

Besides the RP the government also implemented the VRP. This programme was implemented since the Seventh Malaysian Plan (1996-2000) that involved around 217 OA villages (12,264 HH). The objective of this programme was to raise the standard of living of the OA community in the already existing villages (other than RP) through the SRP social-infra components like that undertaken by the RP.

The third SRP is the NVP and this resettlement programme is specially designed for the OA villages which border Thailand and are in KESBAN areas. The participants are equipped with SRP infra-social amenities like that which is done for RP and VRP (JAKOA, 2010). The approach taken by KESBAN is "Security and Development" to provide security and economic stability in the boundary areas around a radius of 25 kilometre (km) from the international Malaysia–Thailand border. KESBAN was undertaken in 1979 with basic housing facilities in place together with economic programmes like agriculture, husbandry and village industries. Example, like the Brooke Post, that is 90 km from Gua Musang with a population of around 300 people (Mohd ZakariaYadi, 2004).

#### **4.2 Economic Development Programme (EDP)**

The objective of this programme is to increase the income (decrease the poverty level) and diversify the economic source of the OA community. Four main projects under the EDP are: 1) cash crop (*kontan*) planting projects (vegetables); 2) husbandry project (goats, cows, sheep and fish); 3) rubber and palm oil planting projects; and 4) development of businesses for the OA community (the entrepreneurs involved will be given guidance in management and entrepreneurship aspects with the assistance of technical agencies that are appointed).

### 4.3 Social Development Programme (SDP)

The objective of this programme is to raise the quality of life of the OA community who live far in the interiors and on the fringes. This programme will also assist the physical transformation and the mind-set of the OA to prepare and accept the changes to their daily life. SDP covers the following six components: first, education assistance; second, housing for the poor; third, infrastructure and social amenities; fourth, change in the mind-set; fifth, family development; and sixth, health development. The Government during the Ninth Malaysian Plan (2006-2010) had allocated around RM337.3 million to implement the RP, EDP and SDP programmes (Table 4). The highest amount allocated was for SDP, that is RM250 million or 53.3 percent of the total allocated during the Ninth Malaysian Plan. Total original allocation for SDP was RM158.3 million, an increase of RM91.7 million was given through the Economic Package 1 that was used for: 1) housing aid for the poor and hardcore poor (66.5 million), 2) village roads (RM12.9 million), and 3) agriculture roads (RM12 million) (JAKOA, 2011). From 2008 to 2010, RM20 million was allocated for Pocket Money, Transport, Food Basket, Input Agriculture, Insufficient Food Vitamin Programme (JAKOA, 2011).

**Table 4:** Allocation according to the Programmes in Ninth Malaysian Plan

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Allocation (RM Million)</b>	<b>%</b>
Structured Resettlement (SRP)	109.9	23.4
Economic Development (EDP)	109.1	23.3
Social Development (SDP)	250.0	53.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>469.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: <sup>a</sup>Total original allocation is RM377.3 million, an increase of RM91.7 million given through the Economic Package 1  
(Source: JAKOA (2011))

## 5. CONCLUSION

The main problem of the OA community today is the high rate of poverty. Even though the poverty level has decreased from 47 percent in 1994 to 30 percent in 2007, this figure is still high compared with the percentage of poverty at the national level. For example, in the Philippines, the OA community is still maintained as the sector or community that is most marginalized (David, 2007). The OA community is still marginalized from the mainstream economic development. OA are amongst the poorest community in many countries. Many of them are marginalized and their culture and language is fast diminishing. Issues concerning the OA community, include the preservation of their culture and language, land ownership, ownership and exploitation of natural resources, issues of politics and autonomy, pollution of the environment, poverty, health and discrimination. The OA is a vulnerable community and will continue to be disadvantaged due to the development processes) (ADB, 2007). The OA is defined as the “*vulnerable segments of society*” that is a society that is easily exposed to danger and faces poverty as a result of factors that are beyond their control. The economic development programmes in the interior (on the fringes or interior of the jungles) will jeopardize the socio-economy, cultural and livelihood of the OA if no appropriate actions taken by government.

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