



Mencari Malaysia

Reading Historiography & Social Thought

Date : Friday, 11 January 2019

Time : 3-6pm

Venue : History Department Resource
Centre, Faculty of Arts & Social
Sciences, University Malaya

Discussant : Assoc Prof Sivachandralingam

Chairman : Prof. Syed Farid Alatas



Interpreting the 1895 Federation Scheme

In the last three Mencari Malaysia sessions we had discussed the problem of Eurocentrism as one of the key challenges for constructing a Malaysian or indigenous historiography. We had also debated the limitations of positivist history and explored the various approaches for unlocking the story of Malaysia unfolding.

In this 4th session we will look into the phenomenon of domination and how the process of colonialism was effected upon the Malay states. We will do this through a reading of the four-page document of the 1895 Federation Scheme which outlined the functions of British officials and became the mechanism to administer the Federated Malay States (FMS) from 1896 to 1909. The Scheme's primary objective was to render the administration more efficient and in the long run to encourage capital flow in the Malay states. A reading of the 21 clauses of the Scheme would shed light on aspects of colonial intent, attitudes and strategies for managing the various Malay states under colonial domain at the turn of the 20th century. It would also provide opportunities for interpreting power relations within the competing colonial administrative power structures, and between colonial ambitions and indigenous resistance.



Federation Scheme

ENCLOSURE II.
SCHEME FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEDERATION
OF THE PROTECTED MALAY STATES.

1. The States considered, for the purposes of these proposals, are four,—*i.e.*, States con- Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, and Pahang. cedered.

2. Each State will maintain its existing autonomy as regards every other State, and will collect and, after providing for federal charges as hereinafter specified, Autonomy maintained.

spend its own revenue. If assisted by another State, all money advanced will be classed as loans, to be repaid in accordance with terms of mutual arrangement.

Residence

3. The duties of each Resident will be modified as hereinafter laid down and by the fact that the channel of communication with the Governor will no longer be the Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements but a Resident-General of the Native States, whose headquarters will be in the Native States and whose position as regards the Residents is duly defined.

Resident-General

4. The Resident-General will have a residence and office in Selangor and wherever else it may be found necessary, but it will be his duty to travel as much as possible in all the States, keeping himself in touch with the Native Rulers, the Residents, and all matters of administration.

5. While travelling or residing in any State the Resident-General can communicate with any one direct on any subject, but he shall issue no instructions to any Government officer except through the Resident of the State where the officer is employed. Similarly, if any Native or European, official or unofficial, addresses him on any subject, the Resident-General shall, after consultation with the Resident, send the reply, if any, through him. This instruction will not prevent the Resident-General from using his discretion in a matter of urgency, but in this case he will take the earliest opportunity of informing the Resident of his action and the circumstances which led to it.

State Councils

6. The State Councils of the various States will meet and conduct their business as hitherto. They are legislative and advisory bodies, and have no control over the public expenditure, but they may, as hitherto, decide on the selection, remuneration, removal and retirement of native officers, subject always to the sanction of the Resident-General and the Governor.

The Residents will always furnish to the Resident-General, for transmission to the Governor, drafts of the legislative measures proposed to be laid before Council, in sufficient time to allow of their consideration by the Governor before the meeting, and no legislative enactment can be published or acted upon until the Governor's sanction has been given to it.

Administration

7. Each Resident will carry on the work of his State as has been done hitherto, except in so far that the Resident-General will have full power to issue instructions to him. In case of any difference of opinion, the Resident can appeal to the Governor through the Resident-General, but, pending the result of such appeal, must act on the instructions he receives.

The annual Estimates will be prepared as now, forwarded to the Resident-General, not later than the 1st October, and submitted by him to the Governor for sanction.

No new appointment on the Fixed Establishment or Provisional and Temporary Establishment, and no increase, can be made without the sanction of the Governor, while, as regards other expenditure not on the Estimates, the authority of the Residents is limited to a sum of \$500 on any one account, and a return of all such excess warrants must be rendered quarterly to the Resident-General.

Where any sum beyond \$500 is urgently required, a letter giving full particulars must be addressed to the Resident-General, who will have authority to sanction such expenditure up to \$5,000, and will forward to the Governor the Resident's quarterly returns, together with a similar return of the sums sanctioned by himself.

Where the amount required exceeds \$5,000, reference must be made to the Governor through or by the Resident-General.

In the same way, no transfer of any amount exceeding \$500 can be made from one vote to another without reference to the Resident-General, whose authority in this respect also will be limited to a sum of \$5,000.

Appointments

8. The Residents will deal with all appointments and promotions carrying salaries on the Fixed or Provisional and Temporary Establishment not exceeding \$600 per annum, or, where paid from an open vote, not exceeding \$1,200.

In the case of appointments and promotions to offices on the Fixed or Provisional and Temporary Establishments carrying salaries of over \$600 and not exceeding \$1,200 per annum, also in the case of posts carrying salaries exceeding \$1,200 but

not exceeding \$1,800 per annum paid-out of open votes, the approval of the Resident-General will be necessary. All other cases must be referred, through the Resident-General, to the Governor.

No dismissal of an officer on the Fixed Establishment whose salary exceeds \$300 can be made without reference to the Resident-General, and if the salary exceeds \$600, without the sanction of the Governor.

In the case of officers on the Provisional and Temporary Establishment, or paid out of open votes, reference to the Resident-General is only necessary if the salary exceeds \$1,200 per annum, but in all cases of dismissal it is absolutely necessary that the officer concerned should first be called upon to give a written reply to the written charges of which he is accused.

9. The Residents will have authority to grant vacation leave up to six weeks to leave any officer entitled to it under the General Orders.

Beyond six weeks, and up to a total of three months, leave of absence may be granted, either vacation or on half pay, or without salary, by the Resident-General.

Application for leave exceeding three months in duration must be referred to the Governor, as also all leave for even a shorter period should the officer be proceeding to Europe and desire to draw salary from the Crown Agents.

10. The Residents' Annual Reports will be furnished to the Resident-General in annual duplicate before the 15th April, and they should all be drawn on something like one Report model, to be decided by the Resident-General. He should forward them at once to the Governor, but should also prepare for the Governor a concise report of his own on the general progress of all the States.

11. The whole of the officers serving the Governments of the Native States will form one service and be eligible for promotion from one State to another, their service being counted as continuous, but each State will be liable for pension in proportion to the period passed by an officer in its service.

There will be one Pension Order for all the Native States and a Widows and Orphans Fund compulsory on all those who join the Native States' Service after the date of its introduction.

12. The powers of Magistrates, the practice of Courts, the scales of fees and all judicial proceedings, will be assimilated as far as possible in all the States.

A Judge will be appointed, who will go on circuit to the headquarters of each State and hear appeals. Where possible, he will also try capital cases.

13. An Attorney-General will also be appointed for all the States. He will reside generally in Selangor, but when necessary and possible will visit the other States. His principal work will be the drafting of all legal enactments, contracts, and other important documents, and he will advise the Governor, the Resident-General and the Residents on any legal questions referred to him.

14. The organization and general direction of the Sikhs will be under the control of an officer to be styled the Commandant Malay States-Sikhs. The uniform, drill, arms, engagement, pension and all other regulations of this Force will be the same throughout all the States.

15. There may be a Chief Engineer at the head of the Native States Public P.W.D. Works Departments, and the same rules, orders and system of work will be observed, as far as possible, in all the States.

16. There may be a Chief Railway Engineer, under whose advice the railway systems, by-laws, leave rules, and all other matters affecting the construction and working of Native States Railways and the employment of Engineers, Traffic Managers, and all other Railway officials, will be brought as nearly as possible on to the same footing.

17. There may be also a Chief Auditor, a Chief Surgeon, a Chief Surveyor, a Chief Commissioner of Lands and Mines, a Commissioner of Police and of Prisons, an Inspector of Schools and an Inspector Posts and Telegraphs, who will in the same manner secure, as far as possible, identity of practice in their own Departments in all the Native States.

Governor and
Council

18. The officers named in Paragraphs 12 to 17 will communicate direct with the Residents, and will be generally responsible for their Departments in each State, the local Head of the Department being directly responsible for his Department in the State where he is stationed.

These Chief Officers will also correspond direct with the Resident-General and take their instructions from him, but they can issue no orders to their Departments in any State that are opposed to the ruling of the local Resident. When any difference arises between a Resident and the Head of any Department it must be referred to the Resident-General, and until a decision is received from him or from the Governor the Resident's ruling must stand.

Residency. 19. The Order of seniority of the officers named will be as follows:—

		\$
A.	Resident-General	12,000
B.	Resident, Perak	9,600
	Resident, Selangor	8,400
	Resident, Negri Sembilan	6,000
	Resident, Pahang	6,000
C.	The Judicial Commissioner	7,200
	The Attorney-General	6,000
	The Commandant	6,000
	The Chief Engineer	6,000
	The Chief Auditor	6,000
	The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Mines	6,000
	Commissioner of Police and Prisons	6,000
	The Chief Surgeon	6,000
	The Chief Railway Engineer	6,000
	The Chief Surveyor	6,000
D.	The Inspector of Posts and Telegraphs	4,200
	The Inspector of Schools	4,200

It is not necessary to the Scheme that all these officers should be immediately appointed, and it would be sufficient, and perhaps even advisable, to only make the following appointments to begin with:—

The Judicial Commissioner	and later,
The Attorney-General	Commissioner of Lands and Mines
The Commandant of Sikhs	Inspector, Posts and Telegraphs
Commissioner, Police and Prisons—	The Inspector of Schools

Division of
general
expenses.

20. The cost of all charges common to the States, the salaries of the above appointments (except those in Class B), and any that may hereafter be added, or any other charge that properly belongs to all the States, should be met by dividing the charges proportionately between the four States, each State contributing in proportion to its revenue.

Thus, taking the revenues of this year and dividing them roughly, the proportion would be—

Perak	$\frac{40}{100}$	Negri Sembilan	$\frac{4}{100}$
Selangor	$\frac{40}{100}$	Pahang	$\frac{1}{100}$

So that if to any office a salary of, say, \$6,000 was allotted, the States would pay as follows:—

	\$		\$
Perak	3,180	Negri Sembilan	240
Selangor	2,520	Pahang	60

21. Once a year there should be a meeting (if possible under the presidency of the Governor) of the Resident-General, the Residents, the Native Rulers and members of the State Councils (or as many of them as can attend), to discuss matters affecting the mutual interests of the Native States.

These meetings, if carefully managed, would be of great interest and value, but they should be held only for the purpose of bringing the Heads of the various States together and discussing matters of mutual interest.

The meetings should, where accommodation is available, be held each year in a different State.

COST OF WORKING THE FULL SCHEME.

RESIDENT-GENERAL:—	\$
Resident-General	12,000
Secretary to ditto	3,600
Shorthand Writer	1,800
Chief Clerk	1,800
Second Clerk	900
Orderlies and Pankah Pullers	432
Horses, Harness and Traps	4,000
Travelling and Personal Allowances	2,500
All Contingencies	600
Caretakers	600
Upkeep of Grounds	1,200
TOTAL	28,332

Malay Union

NOTE.—The Resident-General should be given a furnished house in Selangor and in Perak. The other members of his staff should have unfurnished quarters in Selangor.

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER:—	\$
Judicial Commissioner	7,200
Clerk	1,200
Orderly and Pankah Puller	216
Horse Allowances	480
Travelling and Personal Allowances	1,000
All Contingencies	200
TOTAL	10,296

COMMANDANT M.S. SIKHS:—	\$
Commandant M.S. Sikhs	6,000
Clerk	900
Orderly and Pankah Puller	216
Horse Allowances	480
Travelling and Personal Allowances	600
All Contingencies	200
TOTAL	8,396