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An Initial Sketch of Malaysia Incorporated as a Manifestation of Malaysian Authoritarian Corporatism

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*Very Preliminary Draft
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Abstract

In this paper I attempt to conceptualize and describe the concept of Malaysia Incorporated as an element of Malaysia's very own authoritarian corporatism. I will first think of Malaysia Inc by comparing similar 'Incs' in the UK, France, South Korea and Japan. I will also define Malaysia Inc according to the terms used the Government and I will sketch its evolution. After that I will provide a brief discuss and future research will be suggested. The main idea of this paper is that Malaysia Inc is not just a private-government partnership: it is a manifestation of what can be said to be a form of authoritarian corporatism. For now I will call this – the Malaysian Authoritarian Corporatism. I will conclude with my future plans of research in this area.

Keywords: Malaysia Incorporated, corporatism, firms, markets, democracy, authoritarianism, theory building

1. Introduction

This paper represents my first attempt to describe the concept of Malaysia Incorporated and (secondarily) to consider how one would want to assess the impact of Malaysia Incorporated to the wider economy and to the society in Malaysia. Indeed these two efforts are quite large, burdensome and full of pitfalls. But such an effort will be fruitful because it may lead to us to the understanding of the potential impacts of the Government's economic policies in critical multidimensional ways, rather than just accepting uncritical commentaries and narrow viewed assessments which economists may perform when they assess the success or failures of certain government policies or creations. Moreover, I would view Malaysia Incorporated to be not just in terms of a static government policy, but also as a creation that has a life of its own due to the

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