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FEB Working Paper Series No. 1212

A New and Postmodern Theory of Malaysian Corporatism? Preliminary Conceptual and Theoretical Outline

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Working Paper Series No. 1212

December 2012

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*Very Preliminary Draft
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Abstract

In this paper I outline and discuss the theories and concepts that I am using in my research on Malaysia Inc and Malaysian Corporatism. Malaysia Incorporated can be described to be a product of an authoritarian form of corporatism. This concept started out as a seemingly innocent policy to encourage cooperation between the private sector and government; but has now evolved into a form of corporatism. In this paper I consider some of the theoretical and conceptual discussions. In this paper I will outline the key concepts and theories that will be used as foundations to build my theory of Malaysian Corporatism.

Keywords: Corporatism, business-government relationship, authoritarianism

1. Introduction

This paper elaborates the core theoretical and conceptual elements relating to my intended research grant application - FRGS (Fundamental Research Grant Scheme) or ERGS (Exploratory Research Grant Scheme) proposal¹. I have decided to write this part in FEB Working Paper series because the FRGS form is rather restrictive when one writes long explanations. Many issues that cannot be discussed at length in the research proposal form will be elaborated here. In this paper I discuss the theoretical and conceptual aspects of my research grant in more detail. Basically this paper discusses what can be said to be a New Theory of Malaysian Corporatism or

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¹ At this stage I am thinking that I will apply in the first instance the FRGS, and then in the second instance the ERGS; however I am also thinking of applying for grants outside of Unimas and even beyond Malaysian borders.