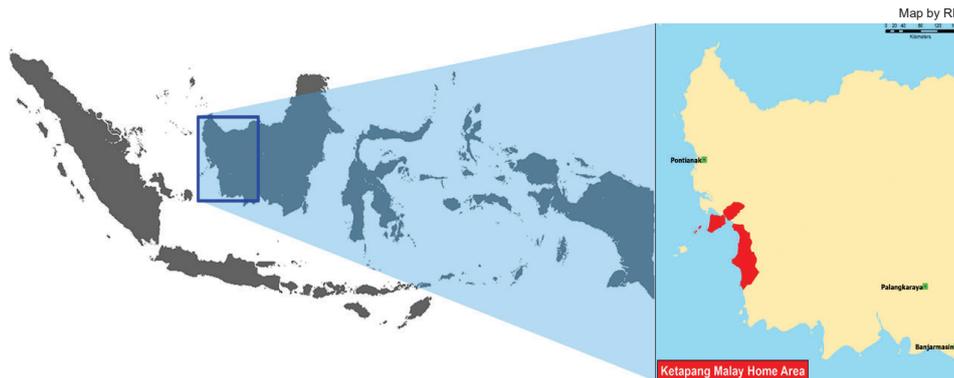


KETAPANG MALAY



Photo by RD



Demography	Ketapang Language	Status
Location: West Kalimantan	Bible: No	Believers: 0
Population: 300.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Ketapang Malay live along the southwest coast of the province of West Kalimantan as well as among the cluster of islands located in the Karimata Strait, which include Maya Karimata, Teluk Batang, Sukadana, North Matan Hilir and South Matan Hilir. The Ketapang Malay are an Islamic ethnic group formed by intermarriage between Malay and Dayak peoples who live in Ketapang Regency. Dayak people who have become Muslim consider themselves Malay and live among the Malay people, though they may still practice Dayak religious customs and speak their Dayak language. There is a great probability that the majority of Ketapang Malay are originally of Dayak descent whereas some are of Riau Malay descent. On the riverside in the town of Ketapang there is a large, wooden relic of a traditional house that is considered to be a testament to the Malay culture.

Society and Culture

The area where the Ketapang Malay live is very difficult to reach by land. Many of the roads are in terrible condition due to the fact that they are rarely maintained. The large holes make these roads difficult to navigate by motorbike let alone by car or truck. So to get to this area it is often advised to go via ferry from Pontianak along the coast to Ketapang. The towns of Ketapang and Teluk Batang are the only ports routinely used for public transport. Teluk Batang is the only port with a ferry that can carry motorbikes and cars as well as passengers. The main industry for the Ketapang

Malay is palm oil, rubber, and timber. Most residents work as farmers, though some also work as fishermen. Some agricultural products are sent to Pontianak and some are sent to Semarang on the island of Java. The route to Semarang is relatively quick compared to the available routes to Pontianak, thus many tend to send their products through this trade route.

Beliefs

The religion of the Ketapang Malay is Islam. However, they are not fanatic by any means. There is no information available that leads us to believe that there is any Ketapang Malay person of any other faith. However, there is a possibility that if any Ketapang Malay person changed their faith they would no longer be considered Malay but rather Dayak. So religion in many ways is synonymous with ethnicity.

Needs

There is much potential for tourism, with Tanjungpura Grave, the relics of Tanjungpura Kingdom, Karimata Island, the Natural Forest in Kendawangan, Gunung Palung National Park, and Muhamad Saunan Palace. Many hope that an increase in tourism could improve the local economy. The whole Ketapang region would be greatly improved by improvement of existing water, air, and land transportation. This would be especially significant considering its relatively close proximity to the island of Java (as compared with other areas of West Kalimantan).

(RD)



Photos by RD

