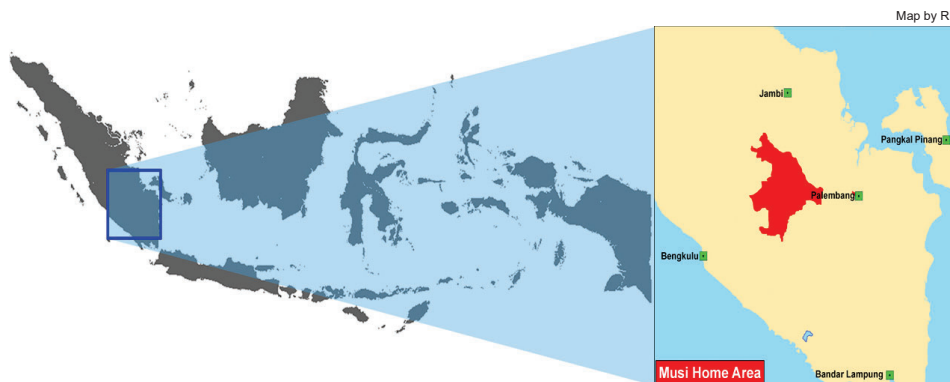


Musi



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Musi Language	Status
Location: South Sumatera	Bible: No	Believers: <20
Population: 660.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Musi people group live throughout the regencies of Musi Banyuasin and Musi Rawas. Their name comes from the Musi River along which they live. In the Musi Banyuasin Regency, the Musi people live in the districts of Sekayu, Sanga Desa, Sungai Keruh, and Babat Toman. In the Musi Rawas Regency they live in the Muara Lakitan and Muara Kelingi districts. Many Musi people also live in Palembang where they tend to live in groups together with other Musi people.

Society and Culture

The means of livelihood among the Musi includes farming, hunting, and fishing. They also work in a variety of other fields such as forestry, transportation, construction, education, and government work. Those living in the city of Palembang work as university professors, research specialists, land developers, shipyard workers, and bicycle rickshaw drivers.

Many of their traditional raised platform houses, both above land and water, are being replaced with modern style homes (on the ground). This is caused by many factors, one being that the wood materials for the raised platform are becoming more expensive and more difficult to obtain.

In Musi culture, a young engaged woman becomes the responsibility of her fiancé. He must pay for all of her needs except food which is still her parents' responsibility. The Musi use the patrilineal system for their line of descent. Within the family, the husband is responsible for making a living and protecting his family. The wife's responsibilities are to take care of the tidiness and harmony of the home so that the husband can say, "My home is my heaven." Within the Musi Sekayu families male children are preferred because they are

perceived as a guarantee for the country's future as well as guaranteeing the continuation of their hereditary line.

Beliefs

Almost all of the Musi follow Islam. Building a house of worship other than a mosque is not allowed in the Musi area by the local government. The Musi have two differing opinions concerning changing one's religion. The first opinion is that changing one's religion is not allowed by a Musi Muslim for any reason. The other opinion is that changing one's religion is an individual right, so it would not be a problem for a person to change.

Marriage between people of different religions is also not allowed. The non-Muslim partner must change their religion to Islam which can be done by saying the sentence which professes faith in Islam and, if he's a man, he must also be circumcised. If one of the partners does not want to change their religion then the wedding will be cancelled. The reason Musi people are Muslim is that their ancestors were Muslim. They follow the Islamic religion because it has been passed down to them and is a part of their culture, not because they understand it or have faith in it. Because of this, religious worship is not an important factor in their lives; it is mainly just a part of their identity.

Needs

Rice can only be planted and harvested once a year even though the most Musi people live along the Musi River. All the other rivers in South Sumatra empty into the very large Musi River. Because of their dependence on rice as their livelihood, the Musi people need irrigation technology so they can make use of the river water for irrigating their rice farms in order to have two or three harvests a year. ^(E-RD)