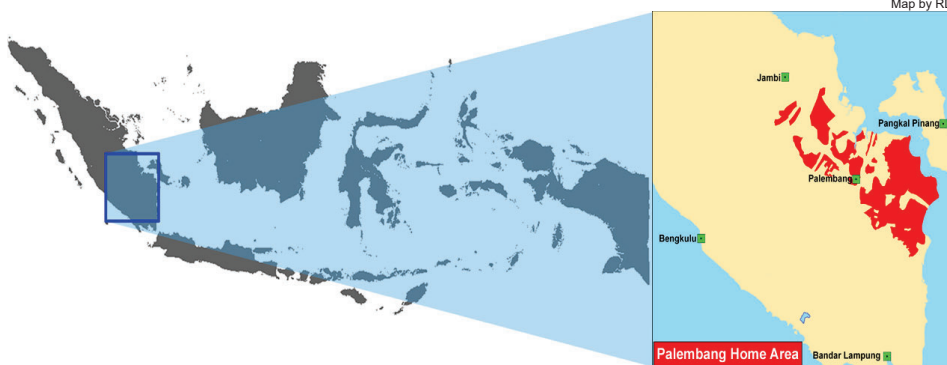


PALEMBANG



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Palembang Language	Status
Location: South Sumatera	Bible: No	Believers: < 25 (7391)
Population: 3,300.000	Jesus Film: Yes	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Palembang are a large people group who live in and around the city of Palembang. They are sometimes called Palembang Malay or Musi Banyuasin people. The Mesuji people can also be considered a part of the Palembang.

In the city of Palembang, they live in groups spread throughout a number of districts: di 7 ulu, 8 Ilir, Kertapati, 28 Ilir, 29 Ilir, 30 Ilir and others. They live in several districts in the Ogan Komering Ilir Regency: Tulang Selapan, Sirah Pulau Padang, Pedamaran, Mesuji, Air Sugihan and Pampangan. A smaller number of them also live in the Sungai Lilin and Bayung Lencir districts in the Musi Banyuasin Regency, and spread across the Banyuasin Regency.

Society and Culture

They use the Malay Language with a Palembang dialect. The language is easy to master for those who can speak Indonesian. However, their language also has some special characteristics. For example the letter 'r' is enunciated unclearly (could be described as a lisp) and they often use the letter 'o' at the end of words.

Rivers are important for the livelihood of the Palembang. They use it for selling from boats, transportation, planting rice, bathing, washing, etc. Many of the Palembang people work as government workers. They also work well in a variety of other occupations, such as traders, factory workers, manual laborers, fishermen, teachers or handicraft producers.

A typical Palembang house is designed with a distinctive pyramid shape. Most of their houses are raised, standing above water or land. This method is used for protecting the homes from the frequent floods. The lineage of descent is traced through both parents (bilateral). In the family, the husband is responsible as the provider and

the protector of the home. The wife's responsibilities are to take care of the tidiness and harmony of the home so that her husband can say, "My home is my heaven."

The Palembang are acquainted with the tradition of "free marriage". This means that a child is free to draw the family lineage by choosing his family or clan name from the father's or the mother's clan. Other traditions are also free. For example, the newlywed couple is free to live where they want or in a place that has been determined beforehand through discussion with their parents. For the Palembang people, the wedding ceremony has a very important meaning. It is a symbol of bringing into existence unity, togetherness, and mutual assistance.

Beliefs

The Palembang follow the Muslim religion and believe that to follow Islam is to practice all of the religious duties. Friday afternoon is a quiet day because most of the men are involved with their Friday ritual prayers. For the month of fasting, the majority of people fast diligently.

Although Islamic awareness is very high, the role of the shaman is still prominent in many areas of life. For example, if something is lost or someone is sick, a shaman is usually consulted first. The shaman has a respected social status and is highly regarded in the opinion of Palembang citizens.

Need

The farming of those living in swampy area is often attacked and seriously damaged by rats. Assistance in eradicating the high population of rats would be very helpful to increase rice production.

(E-RD)

