

Urgent via fax

Ruj. Kami : JPN.PT:163/2/3/1 Klt.32 (44)
Tarikh : 22 Ogos 2014

**Editor-In-Chief
The Borneo Post**

Sir,

RESPOND TO THE BORNEO POST "CALL TO RECOGNISE IBAN MARRIAGE" DATED 21 AUGUST 2014, THURSDAY, PAGE: 14 (HOME)

With reference to the above matter.

2. The National Registration Department (NRD) wish to clarify that the Marriage and Divorce matters under the native customary laws in Sarawak is under the purview of the Sarawak Native Customs Council (Majlis Adat Istiadat Sarawak / MAIS).

3. As for the matter of Iban couples who are facing problem in Peninsular Malaysia with government agencies and departments pertaining to the legality of their marriage certificates should seek the assistance of MAIS to confirm their marriage to the government agencies and departments.

4. As explained Under Section 3(4) of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 (Act 164), this act shall not apply to any native of Sabah or Sarawak or any aborigine of West Malaysia whose marriage and divorce is governed by native customary law or aboriginal custom unless;

- a) He elects to marry under this Act
- b) He contracted his marriage under the Christian Marriage Ordinance; or
- c) He contracted his marriage under the Church and Civil Marriage Ordinance

5. Therefore, the NRD have no jurisdiction to verify an individual's marriage and their marital status for those that were married by native customs.

Thank you.

"BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA"

Yours faithfully,

(FARA MAYA BINTI AHMAD JELANI)

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