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Suluks call their race Tausug, 'the people from Sulu'

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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's Suluk community, who forms the majority of residents in Kampung Tanduo and surrounding areas in Lahad Datu, originated from the Sulu Islands in southern Philippines.

Part of the more than 30 bumiputra ethnic groups who make up the rich tapestry of Sabah's population, the Suluks also call their race Tausug,

which means "The People from Sulu" and have a unique culture and language.

Known as master seafarers, the Suluks are known to be brave warriors and skilled craftsmen.

Apart from the Suluks, Lahad Datu also has large numbers of Bajau, Chinese, Kadazandusun, Malay, Murut and other bumiputra ethnic

groups who make up the town's population of 125,000 Malaysians and 74,000 migrants, according to the Statistics Department.

According to the Information Department website, the Bajaus, the second largest ethnic group in Sabah after the Kadazandusun, also originated from the Sulu Islands.

The Bajaus are known as the "cow-

boys of the East" for their horse-riding skills while others are known as "Sea Gypsies". The Bajau community makes up 15% of Sabah's population.

The Kadazandusun, a combination of the Kadazan and Dusun communities, together make up the largest ethnic group in the state and make up 30% of Sabahans.

The Kadazandusun originated

from the Indo-China region and are made up of smaller sub-ethnic groups including Dusun, Bagahak, Tagahas, Tangara, Rungus, Orang Sungai, Kuijau and Tambanuo.

The Murut community, who makes up the third largest ethnic group in Sabah, has traditionally lived in the interior or northern Borneo.