

# THE RCIIIS:

## THE ENDLESS MERRY-GO-ROUND

THE 40-YEAR-OLD PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN SABAH



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# **THE RCIIS: THE ENDLESS MERRY-GO-ROUND**

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**PUSTAKA PERDANA**



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# **The RCIIS Report is not be the end but renewal of the debate on the 40-year nightmare of illegal immigrants in Sabah**

I wrote on 21 December 2014 about some 6,000 missing pages in the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Illegal Immigrants in Sabah (RCIIS) Report, i.e. 5,000 pages from the evidence of 211 witnesses and over 1,000 pages from “177 exhibits including charts, pictures, statistics, letters, official directives, commentaries and articles”.

All these 6,000 missing pages from the RCIIS Report should be made public, as the people at large are entitled to study them as to whether the RCIIS has taken them into consideration when preparing its Report.

The RCIIS has indeed gone full circle, from skepticism of the public when it was first announced to high hopes raised during public hearings, and to dashed hopes and even deeper skepticism when the RCIIS Report was made public in Kota Kinabalu on 3 December 2014.

The people of Sabah and Malaysia must not give up hope and must continue to demand action to end the influx of illegal immigrants, revoke identity cards issued illegally, ensure a clean and untainted electoral roll in Sabah and to punish those responsible for Project IC or other treasonous scams, acting unlawfully, whether through abuse of power or corruption, in the massive issuance of illegal identity cards.

The debate on the 40-year nightmare of illegal immigrants in Sabah cannot come to an end with the RCIIS Report, but should be taken to a new height of immediacy and urgency.

This booklet is mostly a collection of my media statements and speeches on this serious and grave matter. Therefore, I would like to thank my Sabah DAP comrades, namely Jimmy Wong, Stephen Wong, Chan Foong Hin, Dr Edwin Bosi and Junz Wong, for their contribution of ideas and words for this project.

I hope this booklet will contribute to this renewed debate.

**LIM KIT SIANG**

Kuala Lumpur  
1 January 2015

**“(T)he Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Illegal Immigrants in Sabah (RCIIS) Report was a total cop-out as it has virtually left all the basic issues about nightmare of four decades of illegal immigrants open-ended, providing no satisfactory answers and indulging in irresponsible evasion tactics.”**

**- LIM KIT SIANG**

## **Barisan Nasional Ministers and Member of Parliaments should not fail Sabahans and Malaysians for a third time**

**B**arisan Nasional Ministers and MPs should not fail Sabahans and Malaysians a third time and should demand that the Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan's Review Committee on the Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry on the Illegal Immigrants in Sabah (RCIIS) should complete its review and make public its report before the end of the year, so that the new year of 2015 can begin with the serious resolution of the 40-year problem which had changed the political demography in Sabah as well as created unprecedented socio-economic problems for Sabahans as to make native Sabahans foreigners in their own land.

The BN Ministers and MPs had earlier failed miserably in being unable to rise to the occasion in the middle of last month to demand that the Report of the RCIIS should be tabled in Parliament before the end of the 28-day budget meeting of Dewan Rakyat on 27 November 2014 so that there could be a full-scale parliamentary debate.

The first failure of the BN Ministers and MPs was to allow the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to sit on the Report of the RCIIS for more than six months doing nothing, as a parliamentary answer to my question revealed that the RCIIS Report was submitted to the Federal Government on 14 May 2014.

Can the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, or any Barisan Nasional Minister or MP from Sabah enlighten the public as to what was done by the authorities with regard to the RCIIS Report in the past six-and-a-half months since it was submitted to Putrajaya? Did the Federal Government just sat on the Report and twiddled its thumbs, doing nothing, until it is made public tomorrow?

I do not think I am the only one to have the queasy and sickening feeling that despite the release of the Report of the RCIIS tomorrow, it will be the latest in a "merry-go-round" passing-the-buck game in a protracted and humongous problem which had been going on for four decades, not only getting nowhere, but getting from bad to worse.

I have been trying to contact the Chief Secretary, Tan Sri Ali Hamsa or someone from the Prime Minister's Department to arrange for a set of the RCIIS Report to be made public.

The latest in a “merry-go-round” passing-the-buck game in a protracted and humongous problem which had been going on for four decades, not only getting nowhere, but getting from bad to worse!

but to no avail.

My staff was pushed from pillar to post from one department to another, as nobody seems to know who is in charge, until finally to be informed that all the three officials involved in the RCIIS had gone to Kota Kinabalu for the public launch of the RCIIS Report tomorrow.

This is not a very impressive display of efficiency and competence of the Prime Minister’s Department in Putrajaya, which probably holds the world record as the Prime Minister’s Office in any country with the largest annual budget.

The Chief Secretary should ensure that all MPs who are interested should be given a full set of the RCIIS report.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister should be prepared to summon an emergency meeting of Parliament in the last few days of the year to demonstrate the Barisan Nasional’s seriousness and political will to resolve the four-decade long problem of illegal immigrants in Sabah so that Sabah and Malaysia can begin on a new page in dealing with the problem from the first day of the new year of 2015.

**Media Statement on 2 December 2014**

# **Will there be another “merry-go-round” procrastination manoeuvre to Sabah’s 40-year problem?**

The long-delayed Report of the RCIIS to deal with the 40-year problem of illegal immigrants in Sabah which has changed the political demography and caused unprecedented socio-economic crisis to the state is to be made public in Kota Kinabalu later today.

The RCIIS has been the longest in gestation, as there had been calls for the establishment of the Royal Commission of Inquiry as far back as the past few decades but the problem was allowed to mushroom from some 100,000 some 40 years ago into a humongous and runaway figure ranging from 1.5 million to 1.9 million out of 3.3 million state population today.

As a result of persistent and growing pressures, the Cabinet took a policy decision to set up the RCIIS on 8 February 2012, but it took another six months to finalise its terms of reference and its membership, another month before the RCIIS started work, a year for public hearings and preparation of its Report and recommendations, and although the Report of the RCIIS was officially handed over to the Federal Government on 14 May 2014, it was cold-storaged for six months until its publication later today.

The question uppermost in everyone’s mind apart from the contents and recommendations of the RCIIS Report is whether we have come to the end-game of the 40-year problem of illegal immigrant problems in Sabah, or whether we are only seeing the latest “merry-go-round”

Nobody believes that Pairin will be vested with real powers to implement the recommendations of the RCIIS, as only the Federal Government will have the powers to implement the Report and recommendations of the RCIIS.

procrastination manoeuvre which will kick the problem for the next few years with no real solution in sight until 2020, when the problem would have snowballed to some three million illegal immigrants in Sabah, reducing native Sabahans into a minority in their own land!

Najib's announcement in Sabah for the opening of the PBS Congress on 17 November 2014 that PBS President and Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan will be heading a special committee to look into the findings of the RCIIS and compile recommendations on implementation does not give cause for optimism that there would be swift and immediate action to act on the recommendations and report of the RCIIS to bring a final end to the 40-year problem in Sabah.

The Pairin RCIIS Report Review Committee cannot even meet and start work today as it has not been fully constituted. Or is the Pairin Review Committee of the RCIIS Report a one-man committee? How long will the Pairin Review Committee take, one month, three months, six months or one year to complete its work of compiling recommendations on implementation of the RCIIS Report?

Nobody believes that Pairin will be vested with real powers to implement the recommendations of the RCIIS, as only the Federal Government will have the powers to implement the Report and recommendations of the RCIIS.

For this reason, I call on Najib to announce which Federal Minister would be tasked to work with Pairin on the implementation of the RCIIS Report and recommendations, and to immediately give an assurance that there will be no further "merry-go-round" procrastination manoeuvre to the 40-year problem and that the implementation of the Report of the RCIIS will begin on 1 January 2015.

Najib should explain how the Federal government proposes to deal with RCIIS recommendations it finds unacceptable or inappropriate.

**Media Statement on 3 December 2014**

## **The BN government would have been kicked out of Putrajaya if the RCIIS Report was released before the 13th General Elections**

**D**atuk Seri Najib Razak would have lost his premiership and UMNO/Barisan Nasional kicked out of Putrajaya if the 368-page Report of the RCIIS had been written and released before the 13th General Elections on 5 May last year. If a Sabah state elections is held now, I have no doubt that UMNO/BN would be kicked out of state government and power by the single issue of the Report of the RCIIS.

This is the measure of the disappointment, disbelief, disquiet and dismay which had greeted the release of the RCIIS Report in Kota Kinabalu on Wednesday, both in Sabah and in Malaysia.

This may explain for the cloak-and-dagger arrangements for the launching of the Report of the RCIIS, where the DAP MP for Kota Kinabalu Jimmy Wong, the DAP Sabah State Assemblyman for Kepayan Edwin Bosi, former Senator Maijol Mahap as well as NGO representatives were unceremoniously barred from the event, as if the authorities had something to hide instead of marking a historic event for the state and nation.

Obviously, what the Chief Secretary Tan Sri Ali Hamsa and the Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, who conducted the launching of the Report, were mortally afraid of was to be questioned by elected representatives about the report, but the ruckus over the barring of elected representatives of the people and NGO officials and individuals could have been averted if they had been allowed into the media event as guests and observers but without questioning rights.

In fact, the Prime Minister himself should have been in Kota Kinabalu to launch the report, unless he has reasons to believe that the report will be a public relations disaster, as it has proven to be in the past two days.

The orchestration of twitter bombs (Refer to APPENDIX I) during the launch of the report to sabotage and jam interested but critical twitter sites, like mine, was a tell-tale sign that there were those in authority who had a guilty conscience and to deflect full attention on the Report of the RCIIS – expecting rightly that it would be a disaster.

I do not think it is an exaggeration to describe the Report of the RCIIS as the worst Royal Commission of Inquiry report in the nation's history.

I do not think it is an exaggeration to describe the Report of the RCIIS as the worst Royal Commission of Inquiry report in the nation's history.

Clearly those in authority knew that the Report of the RCIIS would be a disaster.

This was why elected representatives were barred instead of being welcomed with open arms.

This was why there was more than six-month delay in the publication of the RCIIS Report although it was submitted to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 14 May 2014.

This is also the reason why the RCIIS Report was not tabled in Parliament for debate.

Is this also the reason for the sudden attempt to strip the RCI of its "royal" character and to downgrade it to a Commission of Inquiry without the "Royal" appendage?

Native Sabahans have been let down for over four decades or for two generations on the problem, which has changed the political demography in the state and created an unprecedented socio-economic crisis for the people in the "Land Below the Wind".

In full trust, they had looked forward to the RCIIS Report to provide a final solution to the problem but it has proved to be the "Letdown of all Letdowns"!

**Media Statement on 5 December 2014**

# The Government must call for an emergency Parliament session to debate the RCIIS\*

By Stephen Wong

As many Sabahans refused to accept the result and outcome of the recent RCIIS report, I urge Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to call for an emergency Parliament session to debate this important issue.

Najib and his government should not bypass Parliament to reveal this report. Cited that this report is utterly important for Sabah and Sabahans, the representatives of the people in Parliament should be given priority to debate this report for the sake of the people. It shows that the government is irresponsible to the people on this matter, by not revealing it through democratic and proper process.

The report should have been tabled in the lower house of Parliament's last session which was just dismissed on 27 November 2014. Najib and his BN leadership had once again failed to show his guts as a reformer and failed to prove that Malaysian Parliament is a first class Parliament.

Sabahans feel unhappy and unsatisfied with this report as it has failed to tell the truth on the influx of illegal immigrants and failed to tell the reason for so many illegal immigrants getting Malaysian citizenship. Most disappointingly, no solution was given to solve this problem. Those culprits who were involved in this must be held accountable in the RCIIS report and they must face judgment in court.

Despite the hearing that the RCI had spent for more than two years in proceedings and 211 witnesses had testified, it should be enough to provide more suggestions and advice to resolve this problem. Instead, I am disappointed to see that the report has only stated one suggestion, which is to set up a permanent secretariat to handle all related identity cards (ICs) as well as identity of illegal immigrants.

Furthermore, despite the panel summoning 5 former directors of the National Registration Department to testify and many facts had shown that Project IC did exist, it is extremely disappointing that the report had denied or refused to admit the existence of Project IC.

The disappearance of word “Royal” on the report is also a cause for doubt and the government must explain why the RCI report would become merely a Commission Inquiry Report.

During the hearing, some people had suggested that all the disputed ICs be reviewed and only genuine Sabahans and Malaysians should be issued with ICs, but the report failed to mention this method as one of the solutions.

Other than that, it is also shameful for the RCIIS to repeat the Federal Government’s refusal to reissue ICs for genuine Malaysians by saying that this suggestion was not applicable because it was difficult to implement. The panel’s duty was to give suggestion and to stand with the people, and not to help the government cover up its mistakes. It shows that the panel would not be able to operate and submit their ideas neutrally and subjectively.

The disappearance of word “Royal” on the report is also a cause for doubt and the government must explain why the RCI report would become merely a Commission Inquiry Report.

The problem of illegal immigrants in Sabah has totally ruined Sabah’s demographics and it is still the “mother of problems” for Sabah. If the government refuses to act, this problem would continue to be a nightmare for Sabah, and a very serious problem for Malaysia.

There is no other way to solve this problem except for all Sabahans, regardless of race and religion, to help one another. To resolve this problem, we cannot depend on the Federal Government because they have never shown their sincerity to help us. The only way to resolve all these problems is to change the government, both at the federal and state level. Then we may finally know the truth and resolve it once and for all by setting up a truly brave, transparent and efficient committee which has the trust of the people of Sabah.

**\* Media Statement by Sabah DAP Deputy C and Member of Parliament for Sandakan, Si Wong, on 5 Dec 2014**

# “The Rubbish Commission of Inquiry” \*

By Jimmy Wong

As our leader Lim Kit Siang has pointed out last week, if the RCIIS report was released before the last election, it was sure that BN will lose Sabah, and it could trigger a bigger change in political landscape, perhaps changing those in charge of Putrajaya. But it didn't happen. The BN government didn't dare to release the RCIIS report before the election, and we the opposition parties instead fought each other, and we didn't win in the last election in Sabah.

However, everything changes now. It's hard to imagine that tonight we have a number of leaders from Pakatan Rakyat and local parties, academics and activists, Muslims and non-Muslims, senior leaders or young turks, we are here together with one objective, which is saying a big NO to the newly released RCIIS Report.

BN leaders are wrong. They thought that a report must be published to whitewash all their wrongdoings, but they underestimate the will of the people, and now all patriotic Sabahans join together to show our anger to the authorities.

How can we believe the government if the 368-page report had failed to find any political motive behind the issuance of citizenship to foreigners? Who in Sabah believes there was no political motive behind the issuance of the blue identity cards (ICs) to illegal immigrants? Who in Sabah believes that no government agencies were involved in the issuance?

Yes, they can blame it on a few National Registration Department (NRD) officers and syndicates for giving the ICs to the illegals. But I can tell you that these handful of NRD officers were just scapegoats to cover the tracks and to take the fall for bigger criminals.

The issuance of 67,675 blue ICs to illegal immigrants and the granting of citizenship to 68,703 as contained in the report is “laughable.” That is only the figures for those legally “naturalized”, not representing the whole picture of the immigrants demogra RCI, chaired by former Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak, Tan Sri Steve Shim, figures given by Datuk Jariah Mohd Said, NRD director-general, as the offici:

It's very simple. If Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and the BN government were serious about tackling the problem with illegals, Najib should have tabled the report in Parliament and asked the House to empower the committee. If Najib has some conscience left in him, he should bring it there. But what happens now? Najib thinks that all Sabahan are fools!

even though several witnesses in the 43-day hearing gave uncorroborated testimony that hundreds of thousands of ICs were issued to illegal immigrants who are Muslims so they could register as voters and vote against the non-Muslim bumiputera Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) government. The figures were unrealistic. They were far less than those given by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam).

What did our Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail say? He said, the “new voters” – voters with dubious ICs – had negligible impact on past elections. How can our legal head of government say such a thing? Furthermore, our AG is from Sabah. Pakatan Rakyat demand the Election Commission to stop the delimitation process before our electoral rolls cleaned up.

Despite being angry and frustrated at the findings of the report, I found humour in the “population explosion” in Sabah since the 1970s. Although I must say it is not funny at all.

A section of the report where the study was done by the authority on immigrant matters, Dr Chong Eng Leong, showed that from 1970 to 2000, Sabah's population growth rate was 301%, compared to 106% in the much larger Sarawak.

During the formation of Malaysia, Sabah's population was much smaller than Sarawak's. Now, we have three times more the number of people than in Sarawak. Sabahans must be ‘super’ at procreation. We must be better at ‘doing it’ than rabbits. But then again, how come these “new” people are mostly Muslims?

When I was denied the entry into the function hall of the Tabung Haji Hotel where the report was released, I know that the RCI was nothing more than a Barisan Nasional's *wayang kulit*. The BN government only agreed on the RCI to win the 2013 General Elections.

In fact, we have openly invited Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Pairin Kitingan, who I tapped to chair the working committee on ill migrants, to attend tonight's forum. But unfor



he failed to turn up. He doesn't want to discuss the Terms of Reference for this working committee with the rakyat. He doesn't dare to face the rakyat because he knows the shame that this report has brought to us Sabahans!

Tan Sri Pairin, I want to tell you that your appointment could be a plot. Remember what happened to Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and the Parliamentary Select Committee on National Integrity he chaired? The committee was set up to look into the illegal immigrants problem when Dompok was a Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. But Dompok eventually resigned in a huff over the reluctance of some senior officers from the Immigration Department and NRD to disclose information requested by the select committee. I think Tan Sri Pairin will soon suffer the same fate as Dompok.

It's very simple. If Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and the BN government were serious about tackling the problem with illegals, Najib should have tabled the report in Parliament and asked the House to empower the committee. If Najib has some conscience left in him, he should bring it there. But what happens now? Najib thinks that all Sabahan are fools!

I think the Royal Commission of Inquiry Report is "Rubbish Commission of Inquiry" report. The report doesn't have any signature of the RCI member, doesn't have any publisher responsible for it as no indication who is printing it, and the word of "royal" missing, the word Inquiry turns to Enquiry. This report is totally rubbish and not worth the paper it was printed on, furthermore sold at RM100.

\* Opening remarks by Sabah DAP State Chairman and Member of Parliament for Kota Kinabalu, Jimmy Wong, at the Sabah DAP forum The RCIIIS Report: Hopes for Sabah or Cries of Sabah in Kota Kibabalu on 11 December 2014