

RESIDENTS' REACTION TOWARDS TOURISM DEVELOPMENT,
ON MABUL ISLAND, SEMPORNA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to explore the locals' community perceptions and attitudes at Mabul Island towards tourism impacts, at the same to assess their intention to support the future tourism development at Mabul Island. The impact items covered in the study were related to social and economic aspects of tourism. The study has utilized a qualitative research approach of semi-structured interviews questions with range representative groups of respondents. In total twenty two respondents represents the group of the heads of communities, school and mosque representative, as well as a number of market vendor and general public. This study applies the adaptation theoretical framework as a guideline for the whole research. The findings of this study show that generally, the respondents have positive perception of the tourism industry and interaction between local residents and tourists. Besides, tourism is seen as contributing factor towards positive impacts of tourism development. This study identified three factors influence the behaviour and attitudes of local residents' towards tourism development and how respondents perceived the social and economic impacts from tourism; namely respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, the level of contact they have with tourists and tourism and lastly the community attachment, reliance or dependency on tourism industry. The main finding of this research shows that there was a positive relationship between socio-economic impacts and the respondents support towards encouraging the tourism development. Despite of the mix feeling or behaviour towards the reaction of tourists and tourism by both *Bajau Darat* and *Bajau Laut* communities, the local residents has a strong intention to support the future development of tourism.

ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti persepsi dan sikap penduduk tempatan di Pulau Mabul, dalam masa yang sama mengetahui kehendak penduduk untuk menyokong pembangunan pelancongan pada masa hadapan. Kesan pelancongan yang digunakan bagi tujuan kajian ini melihat kepada kesan sosial dan ekonomi. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan kajian kualitatif, dimana temubual secara peribadi dilakukan mengikut kumpulan responden yang menjadi wakil kepada penduduk tempatan. Secara keseluruhannya, sebanyak 22 responden yang terdiri daripada wakil ketua-ketua penduduk, wakil masjid dan sekolah serta beberapa wakil peniaga dan orang awam. Kajian ini mengguna pakai adaptasi rangka kerja teori sebagai panduan keseluruhan penyelidikan. Penemuan kajian menunjukkan responden mempunyai persepsi positif terhadap industri pelancongan serta interaksi antara penduduk tempatan dan juga pelancong. Selain itu, pelancongan dianggap sebagai faktor sumbangan kepada kesan positif akibat daripada pembangunan pelancongan. Kajian ini mengenal pasti tiga faktor yang mempengaruhi perilaku dan sikap penduduk tempatan terhadap pembangunan pelancongan serta bagaimana persepsi responden terhadap kesan sosial dan ekonomi akibat pelancongan; ini termasuk ciri-ciri sosiodemografi penduduk, tahap perhubungan antara penduduk tempatan dengan pelancong dan juga pembangunan pelancongan serta kebergantungan penduduk terhadap industri pelancongan. Penemuan utama hasil dari kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa terdapat perhubungan positif antara kesan sosio-ekonomi dan sokongan responden dalam menggalakkan pembangunan pelancongan. Walaupun terdapat perbezaan reaksi antara komuniti Bajau Darat dan komuniti Bajau Laut, penduduk tempatan di Pulau Mabul menyokong sepenuhnya pembangunan pelancongan pada masa hadapan.