ROLE OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SUDAN AND MALAYSIA IN SUDAN’S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By

NADIR AHMED MOHAMED ELFAKI

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DEDICATIONS

There are a number of people without whom this thesis might not have been written, and to whom I am greatly indebted.

To:

The Soul of my beloved Mother Altayhiah Mohamed AbdelAllah

My Father Ahmed Mohamed Elfaki,
Who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that which is learned for its own sake

My Brother Dr. Faiz Elfaki,
Your unlimited support is treasured for always.

My future wife Nahid for everything that done and will always be,
I am appreciative
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Chairman: Jayum Anak Jawan, PhD
Faculty: Human Ecology

This thesis examines the role of politics and social bilateral relations between Sudan and Malaysia in the context of Sudan’s economic development within the framework of international relations based on the cooperation between the two countries from 1996-2010. The research thus looks at the political, social and economic ties that have been developed and further examine how the political and social matters between the two countries can influence development of Sudan’s economy.

The importance of this bilateral relation between Malaysia and the Government of Sudan (GOS) is probably one of the most significant factors to consider when investigating the economic collaboration between the two countries in terms of trade, development of the oil sector, infrastructural projects and financial assistance. It is very much a symbiotic relationship, where Malaysia is in need of a secure source of oil over the long term, while Sudan needs the external credit, investment and market
for its oil. Despite their connection in the Islamic religion and common membership of both countries in organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and others, there is no strong trade and economic cooperation between the two countries through these organizations. This study attempts to explore the fundamental changes and challenges faced by the two countries and how they can be addressed through economic relations.

The basic purpose of this study was three: (a) to investigate the aspects of relationship between Sudan and Malaysia such as cultural and political, (b) to examine how these aspects can strengthen economic relations between the two countries, and (c) to evaluate how Sudan can benefit from Malaysia in terms of economic development based on the bilateral relations between the two countries. Since the subject matter concerns an in-depth study of bilateral relations between the two countries, therefore a qualitative method was deemed more appropriate to undertake such a study using unstructured interview technique and documents to collect the primary and other secondary data. This research was conducted within the framework of Africa-Asia relations and South-South cooperation.

The significance of Malaysia’s involvement in facilitating to jump-start Sudan’s economy can be realized through the presence, since 1997, of PETRONAS, Malaysia’s national petroleum company in Sudan’s oil sector. Politically and diplomatically, Sudan and Malaysia have supported each other on issues like human rights in the international arena and Malaysia has been largely instrumental in helping to extend Sudan’s presence internationally, especially within the political grouping of ASEAN. The Sudan-Malaysia bilateral relation over the years has
developed to become an outstanding example of a successful South-South cooperation.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

PERANAN HUBUNGAN POLITIK DUA HALA DAN HUBUNGAN SOSIAL ANTARA SUDAN DAN MALAYSIA DALAM PEMBANGUNAN EKONOMI SUDAN

Oleh

NADIR AHMED MOHAMED ELFAKI

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Tesis ini mengkaji peranan hubungan dua hala politik dan sosial antara Sudan dan Malaysia dalam perkembangan ekonomi Sudan dalam kerangka hubungan antarabangsa berdasarkan kerjasama antara kedua negara dari tahun 1996 sehingga 2010. Kajian ini melihat hubungan politik, sosial, dan ekonomi yang dijalankan dan bagaimana hal-hal politik dan sosial antara kedua buah negara mempengaruhi perkembangan ekonomi Sudan.

Kepentingan hubungan dua hala antara Malaysia dan Kerajaan Sudan adalah antara faktor signifikan dalam mengkaji kerjasama ekonomi antara kedua buah negara dari segi perdagangan, pembangunan sektor minyak, projek infrastruktur, dan bantuan kewangan. Ianya merupakan hubungan simbiotik, di mana Malaysia memerlukan sumber minyak yang tetap dalam jangka masa yang panjang, manakala Sudan memerlukan kredit luaran, pelaburan dan pasaran untuk sumber minyaknya.

Tiga tujuan asas penyelidikan ini adalah: (a) untuk menyiasat aspek-aspek hubungan antara Sudan dan Malaysia seperti budaya dan politik, (b) untuk mengkaji bagaimana aspek-aspek hubungan ini memperkukuhkan jalinan ekonomi antara kedua negara, (c) untuk menilai bagaimana Sudan boleh mendapat faedah daripada Malaysia dari segi pembangunan ekonomi berdasarkan hubungan dua hala antara kedua buah negara, Oleh kerana tesis mengkaji hubungan dua hala antara kedua buah negara secara mendalam, kaedah kualitatif adalah lebih bersesuaian melalui teknik wawancara tidak berstruktur dan dokumen untuk dapatan data kajian utama dan tambahan. Penyelidikan ini dijalankan dengan kerangka kerjasama Afrika-Asia dan Selatan-Selatan.

Signifikan pembabitan Malaysia dalam ekonomi Sudan boleh dilihat semenjak 1997, melalui PETRONAS, sebuah syarikat petroleum nasional dalam sektor minyak Sudan. Dari segi politik dan diplomatik, Sudan dan Malaysia telahpun memberi sokongan terhadap satu sama lain dalam isu seperti hak asasi manusia di arena antarabangsa, dan Malaysia memainkan peranan yang penting dalam menyerlahkan kehadiran Sudan di peringkat antarabangsa, terutamanya dalam kalangan kumpulan
politik ASEAN. Hubungan dua hala Sudan-Malaysia telah berkembang menjadi satu contoh kejayaan kerjasama Selatan-Selatan.
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Nadir Ahmed,
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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 20 December 2012 to
count the final examination of Nadir Ahmed Mohamed Elfaki on his thesis entitled
“Role of Bilateral Relations Between Sudan and Malaysia in the Development of
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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations that have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

NADIR AHMED MOHAMED ELFAKI

Date: 20 December 2012
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