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**THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS
AMONG THE BIDAYUH****Peter Minos**

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In the case of the Bidayuh, a question will be raised as to how far they could pursue economic progress or modernisation at the expense of their past, their roots and their cultural heritage. Enquiry will also be made as to how far cultural habits and traditions must stand in the way of modernisation and progress.

For a newly emerging society like the Bidayuh, in a newly emerging country like Malaysia, a happy marriage and an acceptable compromise must be made between what is past and traditional and what is modern and unconventional.

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by

Peter Minos

INTRODUCTION

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WHAT IS CULTURE?

To me, a Bidayuh, my culture is my life or my way of life. It is my culture that makes me distinctly a Bidayuh and not of another race. Remove my culture and I am no longer a Bidayuh but simply a rootless, uncultured human being.

A person without a culture is one devoid of the real meaning of life. The extremely individualistic, self-centred man of a Western country who cares only for materialism at the exclusion of all else around him is an uncultured person. He is like an animal who only wants things for his own, without caring or considering the welfare and interest of others around him and living without real feelings for other fellow human beings. His culture centres on materialism and money and not the interests of others.

A Bidayuh does care: he cares about his Bidayuh friends and neighbours and he does so with much warmth and sincerity. In fact, he cares too much — so much so that some others have taken advantage of him.