

A black and white photograph of a waterfall cascading over rocks in a forested area. The water is in motion, creating a misty spray at the base. The waterfall is the central focus of the left side of the page.

TONGOD, SABAH

SPOTLIGHT



ABOUT SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight is a data series that focuses on the needs and gaps in Malaysia's districts.

For this spotlight, this report brings issues regarding poverty in Malaysia's poorest districts. The report provides you with a concise overview of how the district is doing. That being said, it emphasises a number of elements - from ethnicity, socioeconomic, employability and tourism insights to facilities and connectivity data.

THE OBJECTIVE

If you're a poverty alleviation changemaker (NGO, association, government-led project, social investor), this report may help you make a more effective and informed decision-making on where to channel and focus your resources and efforts.

The information and data could also support policymakers and communicators in better understanding the poverty situation in these areas.

Let us join forces to give the voiceless a voice.

*This report was compiled by the Wiki Impact team
with support from Nina Marsoh.*

Last updated on 1 October 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03** Tongod: An Introduction
- 04** Major Ethnicities in Tongod
- 06** Tongod's Socioeconomy
- 06** Local Tourism
- 07** Jobs & Employment
- 08** Education & Other Facilities
- 11** Internet & Connectivity
- 12** Changemakers
- 13** References



TONGOD : AN INTRODUCTION

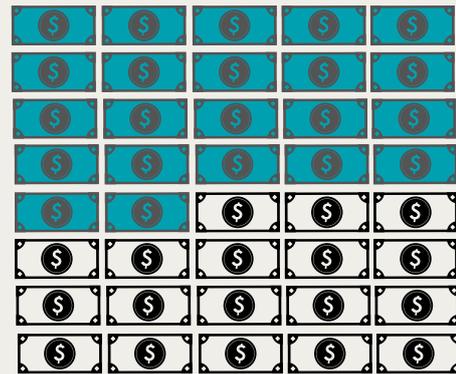
Tongod is part of the Sandakan division, which is bordered by hilly areas and a few mountainous areas, constructing tourism attractions for its environmental wealth. It is located in the middle of Sabah and is surrounded by four other districts. The district was once a sub-district of the Kinabatangan district in 1977 because of the Kinabatangan river's watershed, but was elevated to an independent district in the late 1990s. Tongod's population rely on natural resources, but the town is currently active in infrastructure, facilities and socio-economic development investment due to critical need of upgrading.

map of Sabah



RM 2,197

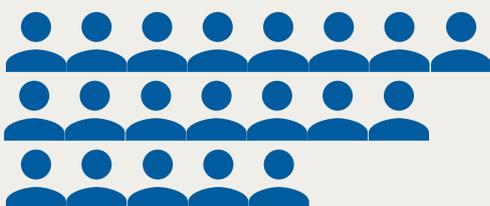
median
household income



 = RM 100

35,341

population in Tongod



 = 1767

15,245

sungai

849

bajau

9,635

non citizen

658

murut

8,615

kadazan

408

chinese

407

malays

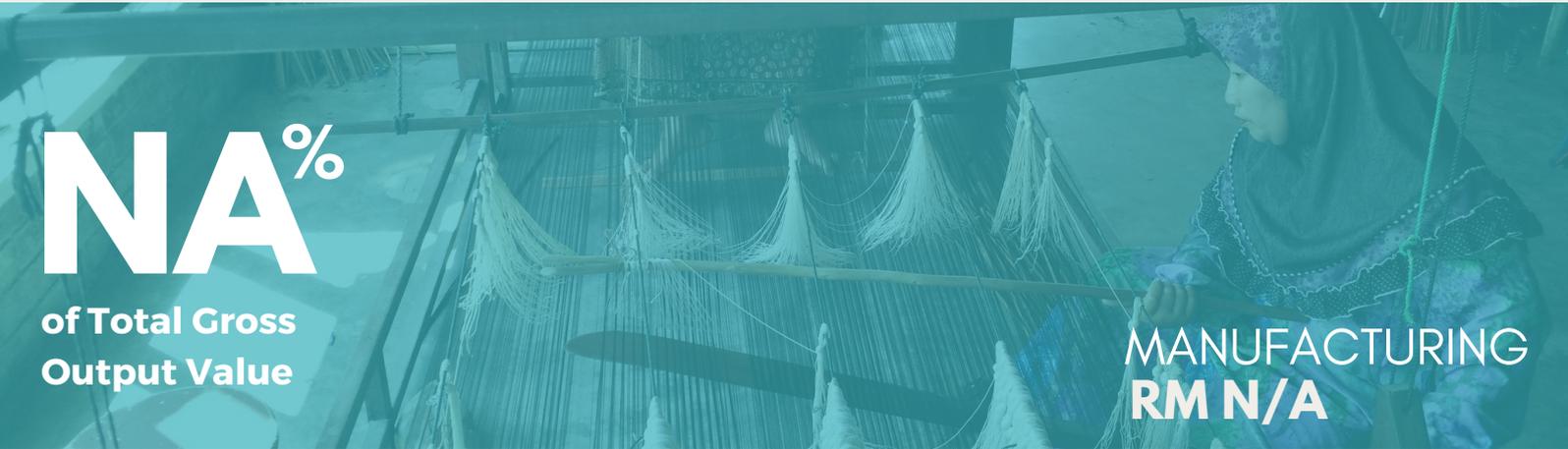
MAJOR ETHNICITIES IN TONGOD

The Tongod district is home to various tribes/ethnic groups, the largest of which being Orang Sungai (covering almost half of the population). The predominant language spoken is Malay, which has an East-West accent and a heavy 'Sungai' dialect. With roughly 66 percent of the population practising Christianity, Islam is the second most popular religion in Tongod, while Buddhism is the third.



TONGOD'S SOCIOECONOMY

Tongod has little to no data on their economical activities. However, the district focused mostly on plantation-based manufacturing - particularly in forestry and wood-related industries – and small scale retail sector; as most residents own property to which they sell goods directly. Services, on the other hand, only account for a small portion of total economic output.



NA%

of Total Gross
Output Value

MANUFACTURING
RM N/A



AGRICULTURE
RM N/A

NA%

of Total Gross
Output Value



NA%

of Total Gross
Output Value

SERVICE
RM N/A

Construction - NA% Mining & Quarrying - NA%

LOCAL TOURISM

Tongod is rich with its wildlife. Main spots such like Maliau Basin ('The Lost World'), Imbak Canyon and Kinabatangan River are three of the most popular attractions in the area. All attractions are involved in nature-related activities, such like forestry expedition, recreation (e.g. birdwatching, night walks and drive) and environmental education. Additionally, rumah rehat (rest house) and homestay are common lodging within the area for tourists.



**MALIAU
BASIN**

**IMBAK
CANYON**



**KINABAT-
ANGAN
RIVER**

JOBS & EMPLOYMENT

Smallholder farmers and companies, factory employees, and forest guides are among the most prominent job opportunities in Tongod. Due to restricted job possibilities, the younger generation would often leave the district in pursuit of better chances. Currently, it has been a trend for small businesses to promote themselves in Facebook pages to increase market growth.



Smallholder Farmers

Often working in oil palm plantations or any other agricultural products like fruits and vegetables

Factory Workers

Factory workers in Tongod often operate in the oil palm processing facilities



Small Businesses

Small businesses and shops often employ store clerks to help run their business smoothly in the town of Tongod

Forest Guides

Given the number of reserve forests in Tongod, forest guides are important in the education and awareness of conservation



EDUCATION & OTHER FACILITIES

Tongod has a variety of educational facilities, including primary and secondary schools. Subsequently, the facilities covers 3% of Sabah's primary schools and 23% of Sabah's senior schools. In terms of covering higher education bases, Tongod offers limited to no access facilities and the closest higher education institutions is in the Sandakan district.

Other significant amenities in Tongod district includes government health clinics and churches. The concern is however the distance between households to facilities - as it is over four times the distance to schools and six times the distance to government health clinics compared to state level data.



31
primary
schools



5
secondary
schools



6
government
health clinics



34
churches



**house to primary and secondary schools
> 9km distance**



58.2% vs 10.5% (Sabah)



**house to govt. clinic
> 9km distance**



51.6% vs 8.4% (Sabah)



PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

Data below displays data of Tongod's primary school with comparison to the national level.

31 
primary schools

5,667 
primary school students

524 
primary school teachers

1:182.8

ratio of primary school to students

Compared to 1:351 in Malaysia

1:10.8

ratio of primary school teachers to students

Compared to 1:11.5 in Malaysia

DISTANCE FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

96.7%

household less than 5km

0.0%

household 5-9 km

3.3%

household more than 9km

SOME SCHOOLS IN TONGOD:



SK Tampasak



SK Maliau



SK Buis

SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

Data below displays data of Tongod's secondary school with comparison to the national level.

5 

secondary schools

3,866 

secondary school students

293 

secondary school teachers

1:773.2

ratio of secondary school to students

Compared to 1:824.1 in Malaysia

1:13.2

ratio of secondary school teachers to students

Compared to 1:11 in Malaysia

DISTANCE FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL

45.1%

household less than 5km

0.0%

household 5-9 km

54.9%

household more than 9km

SOME SCHOOLS IN TONGOD:



SMK Tongod



SMK Penangah



SMK Entilibon

INTERNET & CONNECTIVITY

Tongod's connectivity has increased marginally, but the district still lacks information and communication technology, particularly since the district has no Wi-Fi provider. People who had access to the internet had little choice but to rely on their phone provider. Despite the fact that the majority of households own a smartphone, their internet connectivity rate nearly twice as low as the state average, indicating insufficient long-term support for digital access.



39.3%

households with internet
compared to
73.7% (Sabah)



Rosli Abdul Kadir

May 21, 2019



Masuk tongod internet macam siput, balik telupid internet macam tuntul. Apa lagi pilihan yang ada 😞 😞 😞 😞 😞 😞
Edwin J. Yukun nda jadi keyin saps kalau begini

% of households with:



84.4%
smartphones



0.0%
tablets



14.8%
laptops



3.3%
PCs



Bilnis Jeprin Adrian

April 16, 2021



Apa sudah jadi dgn perkhidmatan TM di daerah Tongod ni. Sekejap hilang sekejap timbul ni jaringan internet? Rugi kita beli data, tapi perkhidmatan internet tidak memuaskan.

CHANGEMAKERS

There are three platforms dedicated to making a difference and improving the lives of Tongod residents. Their contact details, as well as resources to learn more about them, are shown below.

01

JPKK (Jawatankuasa Pembangunan dan Keselamatan Kampung/ Village Development and Security Committee) and Ketua Kampung (Head of the Village)

JPKK work alongside with Head villagers in Tongod in easing the people's welfare.

Website: <https://www.rurallink.gov.my/>

02

PACOS Trust

A community-based organisation dedicated towards supporting indigenous communities around Sabah.

Address: Taman Flash Gordon, Kg. Kivatu, KM18 Jalan Tambunan, 89507 Donggon, Penampang, Sabah.

Phone: +6088-712-518

Website: <https://pacostrust.com/>

Instagram: @pacosoriginal

Facebook: PACOS Trust

03

Forever Sabah

An organisation with collaborative social movement mission.

Address: H30, Gaya Park, Lorong Muntahan 1C, Jalan Penampang, 88300, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Phone/ Fax: +6088-710-708

Website: <https://www.foreversabah.org/>

Instagram: @foreversabah

Facebook: Forever Sabah

YouTube: Forever Sabah

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