



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

Kumpulan Rentas Parti Parlimen Malaysia Bagi Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari



---

# Localising SDGs and Local Issues

Ten parliamentary  
constituencies in Malaysia

---

*Edited by*  
Alizan Mahadi & Zainal Abidin Sanusi





Kumpulan Rentas Parti Parlimen Malaysia Bagi Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



---

# Localising SDGs and Local Issues

Ten parliamentary  
constituencies in Malaysia

---

*Edited by*  
Alizan Mahadi & Zainal Abidin Sanusi

Published by

**Persatuan Promosi Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari  
(Society for Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals)**

A-1-10, 8 Avenue, Jalan Sungai Jernih 8/1  
46050 Petaling Jaya  
Selangor

In partnership with

**Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia**

No. 1, Persiaran Sultan Salahuddin  
50480 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia  
[www.isis.org.my](http://www.isis.org.my)

© Persatuan Promosi Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari (Society for  
Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals) 2022

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,  
stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means,  
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the  
prior permission of the publisher.

The views and opinions expressed in this book are those of the author(s)  
and may not necessarily reflect those of the publisher. Maps obtained  
from Wikipedia unless noted otherwise.

ISBN: 978-629-97554-0-1

Design and layout by Good News Resources Sdn Bhd  
Printing by Akitiara Corporation Sdn Bhd



# Table of contents

Foreword 5

<b>01 Introduction</b> .....	<b>13</b>
1.1 Research methodology for localising SDGs	14
1.2 Structure of the book	16
<b>02 Situational analysis: Pendang (P.011), Kedah</b> .....	<b>17</b>
2.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings	18
2.2 Assessment of delivery issues	19
2.3 Observations of solution projects	21
2.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion	22
<b>03 Analisis situasi: Jeli (P.030), Kelantan</b> .....	<b>25</b>
3.1 Pemetaan isu dan pengesahan hasil penyelidikan	26
3.2 Penilaian isu ketersampaian	29
3.3 Pemantauan pelaksanaan projek solusi	30
3.4 Penutup	33
<b>04 Situational analysis: Bentong (P.089), Pahang</b> .....	<b>34</b>
4.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings	35
4.2 Assessment of delivery issues	39
4.3 Observations of solution projects	40
4.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion	42
<b>05 Situational analysis: Selayang (P.097), Selangor</b> .....	<b>43</b>
5.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings	44
5.2 Assessment of delivery issues	46
5.3 Observations of solution projects	48
5.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion	50

<b>06 Situational analysis: Petaling Jaya (P.105), Selangor</b>	<b>52</b>
6.1 Validation of findings	53
6.2 Assessment of delivery issues	57
6.3 Observations of solution projects	58
6.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion	60
<b>07 Situational analysis: Tanjung Piai (P.165), Johor</b>	<b>62</b>
7.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings	63
7.2 Assessment of delivery issues	67
7.3 Observations of solution projects	68
7.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion	72
<b>08 Analisis situasi: Papar (P.175), Sabah</b>	<b>73</b>
8.1 Pemetaan isu dan pengesahan hasil penyelidikan	74
8.2 Penilaian isu ketersampaian	76
8.3 Pemantauan pelaksanaan projek solusi	77
8.4 Penutup	78
<b>09 Situational analysis: Pensiangan (P.182), Sabah</b>	<b>79</b>
9.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings	80
9.2 Assessment of delivery issues	86
9.3 Observations of solution projects	87
9.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion	88
<b>10 Situational analysis: Bandar Kuching (P.195), Sarawak</b>	<b>91</b>
10.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings	92
10.2 Assessment of delivery issues	96
10.3 Observations of solution projects	96
10.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion	97
<b>11 Situational analysis: Batang Sadong (P.200), Sarawak</b>	<b>98</b>
11.1 Issue mapping and secondary data validation	99
11.2 Assessment of delivery issues	102
11.3 Observations of solution projects	102
11.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion	104
<b>12 Conclusion</b>	<b>105</b>
12.1 Synthesis of key findings	106
12.2 Way forward, future research and implications	110

Contributors 111



# Foreword

**THE formation of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in October 2019** created an active multi-stakeholder engagement between parliamentarians and other actors in localising SDGs, especially among civil society, academics and grassroots organisations.

## Engaging MPs

In late 2019 when the APPGM-SDG secretariat began engagements with members of parliament, 10 MPs volunteered to be part of the localising of SDGs at the parliamentary level.

We secured the support of five MPs from government-based political parties and five from the opposition. This is a bipartisan group of MPs promoting the SDGs. We found all 10 MPs willing and able to engage with researchers and activists by sharing their reflections, analyses, struggles and challenges at the parliamentary levels.

All the MPs are well-versed with the issues highlighted here. They have written letters, highlighted their concerns and called on the government to address them. While they have been successful in some of these, many of the issues and concerns are multi-dimensional, requiring long-term intervention, which is cross-cutting and the support of federal, state and local government agencies.

The findings and analyses were presented on two occasions (28 October 2021 and 22 November 2021) at Parliament to MPs for their feedback and comments. The issues are highlighted in this book as there is a need for a more targeted policy intervention.

## Grounded research methodology

This documentation of the local issues and concerns is based on a three-day field by a team of members from the APPGM-SDG Secretariat led by a lead coordinator and supported by a researcher from a local university or think-tank (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Parliamentary constituency information on field research

No.	Constituency	MP	Site visit date	Lead coordinator & researcher
1	Pendang	Awang Hashim	18-20 July 2020	Lead coordinator: Khalid Al-Walid Researcher: Assoc Prof Dr Zaheruddin Othman
2	Jeli	Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed	7-8 August 2020	Lead coordinator: Dr Juita Mohamad Researcher: Assoc Prof Dr Wan Ahmad Amir Zal Wan Ismail
3	Bentong	Wong Tack	14-16 January 2020	Lead coordinator: Dr Murallitharan Researcher: Assoc Prof Dr Khairul Azami Sidek
4	Selayang	William Leong Jee Keen	18-20 January 2020	Lead coordinator: James Raj Researcher: Dr Lau Zhe Wei
5	Petaling Jaya	Maria Chin Abdullah	19, 23 February & 5 June 2020	Lead coordinator: Alizan Mahadi Researcher: Calvin Cheng
6	Tanjung Piai	Datuk Seri Dr Wee Jeck Seng	18-20 January 2020	Lead coordinator: Kiu Jia Yaw Researcher: Assoc Prof Dr Irina Safitri Zen
7	Papar	Ahmad Hassan	21-23 February 2020	Lead coordinator: Prof Datuk Dr Rashila Ramli Researcher: Assoc Prof Dr Murnizam Halik
8	Pensiangan	Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup	25-27 February 2020	Lead coordinator: Prof Datuk Dr Rashila Ramli Researcher: Prof Dr Junaenah Sulehan
9	Bandar Kuching	Dr Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen	2-4 February 2020	Lead coordinator: Omna Sreeni Ong
10	Batang Sadong	Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri	24-26 February 2020	Researcher: Assoc Prof Dr Zaimuariffuddin Shukri Nordin



We formulated a set of research questions to gather information on local issues and concerns. These are economic, social and environment concerns. This is also based on the 17 SDG goals, targets and indicators.

Our methodology, which was formulated by Alizan Mahadi, sought to identify the local concerns and neglected communities.

Here we undertook focus group discussions and field visits, including conversations with local communities (neighbourhoods, religious and political), government officials and members of the parliamentary office. At the grassroots level, we had conversations with women, youth and communities, including ethnic minorities, indigenous people, migrants, refugees and the disabled.

Going to the ground to hear the views of ordinary folk and see their situation was refreshing. The days were jam-packed with discussions and visits. They provided us with an opportunity to directly converse with the grassroots.

We were able to hear their voices, see their environment and feel their pain, aspirations and expectations. The researchers documented what was shared and drew up a list of local concerns which were discussed to determine how locals feel about priorities for action. This was used to determine the kind of SDG interventions needed in the short term and the long-term policy concerns.

## **Short-term SDG projects**

In every constituency, from the Finance Ministry's funding, we allocated RM120,000 for short-term SDG micro-projects with economic, social or environmental agenda. In these 10 constituencies, we undertook 34 projects, which are not the subject of this book. These SDG solution projects came out of the prioritisation process at the grassroots level and served as possibilities for fund allocations in a decentralised way following conversations with local leaders.

These projects were immediate efforts to assist the local communities to address short-term concerns (see Table 2).

**Table 2. SDG solution projects 2020**

Constituency	Project title	Beneficiary	Solution provider
Pendang	SDG solution dialogue and action plan for Pendang parliamentary community	340 villagers/settlers i) Kg Rambai smallholders ii) Felda Sg Tiang settlers iii) Siamese community in Kg Nangka Siam iv) Indian community in Kg Kilang Besar	Economic & Financial Policy Institute (ECoFI), UUM
	SDG solution project for community development programme at Kg Linchan (eco-tourism)	20 orchard farmers	Mulia Budi Consulting PLT
Jeli	Program penternakan ikan talapia dan patin di Kg Jerimbong	4 fishermen	Institut Penyelidikan dan Pengurusan Kemiskinan (InsPeK), UMK
	Program perusahaan penanaman cendawan di Kg Sg Rual	5 Orang Asli youths	
	Program pembangunan produk eko pelancongan di Kg Gunung Reng	15 villagers	
	Program perusahaan sosial inoproduct (batik) di Kg Sg Rual	6 Orang Asli women	
Bentong	Pembikinan 'Telefilem Generasi Bentong'	30 youths	Pertubuhan Pembangunan Generasi Bentong
	Impart knowledge and skills on organic farming to generate income and enhancement for families and communities	6 B40 women and youths	Persatuan Penggerak Hijau (PPH) Bentong
	Kg Orang Asli Sg Dua Olak, Karak	10 Orang Asli	Yayasan Kajian dan Pembangunan Masyarakat (YKPM)

Selayang	Housing census	280 home/flat dwellers	IIUM, Gombak
	Refurbishment of Makmur PPR flat	280 dwellers	Pengurusan Taman Selayang Makmur
	Café and bakery skills training	10 B40 women	Pertubuhan Perkhidmatan Sosial dan Pembangunan Komuniti Daerah Gombak, Selangor (PSPK)
	Micro entrepreneurship social enterprise	10 B40 women	
	Digital marketing workshop	10 B40 women	
	Basic Malay course for refugees	15 Rohingya	MySkills Foundation
	Air-conditioning training course	15 youths	
2-day skills fair	50 youths		
Petaling Jaya	Inter-agency government dialogue	60 flat dwellers and state agency officers	Pertubuhan Pembangunan Komuniti dan Pembelajaran Berterusan
	Production on a guide on post-Covid community crisis management	200 flat dwellers	Persatuan Penggerak Rakyat (PPR-PJ)
	Women empowerment programme – soup kitchen in PPR Desa Mentari	10 B40 women	Persatuan Penduduk Petaling Jaya 2017 (MyPJ)
	Education project in PPR Lembah Subang 1	212 children	Yayasan Generasi Gemilang
Tanjung Piai	Rubbish clean-up and buy back centre in water settlements of Kg Air Masin and Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng	50 villagers	Impact Revolution Enterprise
	'Go Tanjung Piai' eco-tourism	20 youths	Malaysia Ecology & Biodiversity Restoration Society (RESTORE) and Raleigh International Kuala Lumpur
Papar	Aqua project for fishermen	10 fishermen	Fakulti Psikologi dan Pendidikan, UMS
	Agro project for farmers	10 farmers	

	Women empowerment through entrepreneurship	10 B40 women	University College Sabah Foundation
Pensiangan	Health and well-being	40 women	Sabah Women's Action – Resource Group
	Waste management and economic empowerment	10 youths	Kelab Belia Kg Sinaron (KBKS)
Bandar Kuching	To conduct TVET workshop for retrenched youth from the Selangan Batu community as well as Kg Chawan and Kg Kudei Dunggun	20 youths	Persatuan Pemangkin Daya Masyarakat (ROSE)
	Uplifting socio-economic factors for residents of Selangan Batu	8 youths	
	To conduct socioeconomic-related training in Kg Chawan	63 villagers	Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA)
Batang Sadong	Project to enhance marketing and promoting small farmers and SME activities	10 farmers	Persatuan Mahasiswa Sains Kognitif dan Pembangunan Manusia, UNIMAS
	Enhancement of English language proficiency	25 teachers	Persatuan Literasi Anak Malaysia
	Sewing and breast cancer awareness	10 B40 women and youths	Yayasan Salam Malaysia

## Policy advocacy

This book is based on field-study findings and 10 situational analysis reports. Prior to undertaking the analysis, a mapping of local needs was undertaken.

It is the first formal comprehensive documentation of our policy concerns from an SDG perspective in a book format. This is significant and a key contribution of academics and civil society actors in the localising of SDGs.

It is important to note that while Malaysia has very good national development policies and programmes that address many of the economic, social and environmental concerns, there are still gaps at the local level, which require a multi-dimensional, cross-cutting approach along with greater partnership among agencies and other stakeholders.

The researchers undertook the mapping, which led them to undertake the second in-depth level of analysis (situational analysis) on the local issues and concerns. Here, a researcher sought to review secondary data to collaborate information on the issues identified. The chapter write-up at a constituency level documents the key local issues which are the concerns of local people.

In addition to locational-parliamentary level analyses, the editors have also identified 14 cross-cutting policy issues.

They have linked these to both the locations and relevance of SDGs. While all these concerns are also focused on development planning and fund allocations through the annual budget process, at the ground level, however, they are still major concerns requiring long-term targeted implementations.

Five of the 14 policy concerns were the subject of the APPGM-SDG multi-stakeholder policy roundtable 2022. These were poverty and imbalanced development (infrastructure); flood-risk management and climate change; welfare and rights of single mothers and gender mainstreaming; refugees, migrants and stateless people; and food security and agrifood supply chain.

The roundtable is an ongoing journey to secure tangible policy outputs, which are transformational in addressing grassroots concerns.

## Appreciation

The APPGM-SDG Secretariat received strong institutional support from a number of academic institutions and think-tanks. ISIS Malaysia has been active with the Malaysian CSO-SDG Alliance since October 2015 as well as an anchor institution in the setting up of the APPGM-SDG. Likewise, the Sejahtera Centre, International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM), is another partner institution. Thank you for your institutional support as well as the release of your researchers to be part of this exercise.

I would like to thank the 10 MPs for being part of the process and their support. My heartfelt gratitude to the APPGM-SDG committee especially the chair, Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim, and deputy chair, Maria Chin Abdullah.

A special word of thanks to all the researchers from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF) for your valuable documentation of the local issues, hours of conversation with

people at the grassroots, field visits and situational exercise in the review of the mapping exercise.

I would also thank all the 10 lead coordinators who facilitated the field visits, organised the focus groups and ensured the micro-solution projects were identified and executed.

Finally, a word of appreciation to the two lead researchers who are also co-editors of this volume. To Alizan and Zainal Abidin thank you for providing leadership among the researchers, for making the field visits and also attending local prioritisation meetings. Your role at the formative period of APPGM-SDG work is significant for setting the methodology and identifying cross-cutting policy issues and concerns.

**Prof Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria**

Secretariat head, APPGM-SDG

October 2022

01

---

# Introduction

## 1 Introduction

When the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted at the United Nations in 2015, a major question turned to whether the goals would be implementable at the local level. Conceived through a global multi-stakeholder process, the goals were finalised through a post-2015 development agenda process at the UN in New York. This posed many questions on the effectiveness of the SDGs, as global goals in addressing the local context.

As the experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) demonstrated, implementation of the goals suffered from being uneven and fragmented both across and within countries (Sachs, 2012; Vandemoortele & Delamonica, 2010). In other words, aggregated attainment of the goals at the national level is insufficient, in particular, to meet one of the core principles of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development to leave no one behind.

Taking cue of the need to localise the SDGs, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on SDGs (APPGM-SDG) was established to facilitate localising the SDGs at the parliamentary constituency level. It was established in 2019 with the Malaysian CSO-SDG Alliance appointed as the secretariat.

Parliamentarians acted as convenors of stakeholders while researchers and civil society, as part of the secretariat, facilitated the localising process. The primary activities included an exercise to map issues at the local level and to identify solution initiatives to address the prioritised issues. The objectives of APPGM-SDG included a strong research focus, including to assess the impact of policy interventions on issues related to the achievement of SDGs at the parliamentary level and to evaluate the process of development delivery to understand the underlying and root causes of bottlenecks in achieving the goals.

This book compiles the findings of the issue mapping and assessment of the delivery challenges under the pilot phase of the APPGM-SDG. It consists of findings in 10 constituencies where a situational analysis was conducted. The analyses were conducted by locally based researchers, <sup>1</sup> building upon their knowledge and expertise at the ground level.

### 1.1 Research methodology for localising SDGs

The methodology adopted for the situational analysis was a grounded research methodology. Focus group discussions (FGD) were held in all the constituencies to map out the most urgent issues on the ground, their causes and the potential solutions.



It consisted of a three-day visit to each constituency where local stakeholders were consulted. This included the parliamentarians, community leaders, local civil society organisations and government agencies.

The methodology adopted focused on six key steps. First, mapping issues on the ground through understanding what the most urgent issues were. Second, identifying key target groups left behind. Third, prioritising key issues to address. Fourth, identifying solutions. Fifth, assessing the delivery issues to understand why the issues occurred. Finally, identifying and execution of solution projects.

**Table 1.1.** Research questions for APPGM-SDG

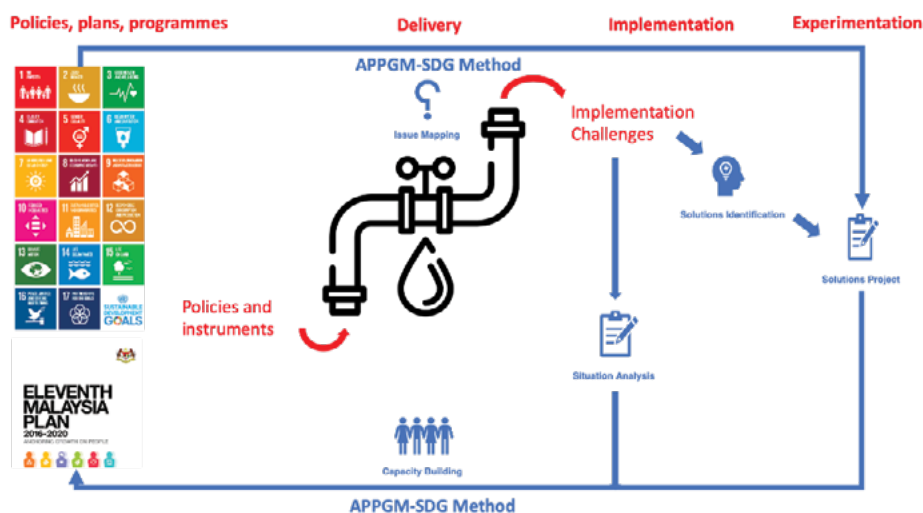
Step	Output/activity
Step 1: <b>What</b> are the most crucial cross-cutting issues across social, economic and environmental within the parliamentary location?	Issue mapping
Step 2: <b>Who</b> is being left behind?	
Step 3: <b>Which?</b> Prioritisation of issues	
Step 4: <b>How?</b> How should we resolve the issue	Prioritisation of solutions and solutions proposal
Step 5: <b>Why?</b> Analysis on why these issues occurred	Situation analysis
Step 6: Identification and execution of <b>solution projects</b>	Execution and monitoring

The approach gave equal attention to identification of the issues related to achieving the SDGs, and *the process* to achieve them. For issue identification, the MP conducted a community profiling session and identified the main issues within his or her constituency.

This is followed by FGDs on issue mapping with local stakeholders, civil society groups and community leaders. The issues were then presented and discussed with local government agencies to understand further the challenges in addressing them. To understand the process, a further situational analysis was undertaken. This included undertaking an analysis on the root causes of the issue by assessing policy delivery issues. One major challenge in undertaking this grounded research approach was establishing the link across national and higher level policy issues and goals with contextualised issues at the local level.

Inspired by the work and concept of Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Dufló, who adopted the mindset of a plumber in identifying problems at the local context, the APPGM-SDG team sought to identify the leakages and challenges in policy delivery issues. This was done both through the three-day visits and discussions with stakeholders in understanding the root cause of the challenges. From the findings, policy recommendations were formulated.

**Figure 1.1.** Assessment of policy delivery issues through ‘plumbing’ approach



## 1.2 Structure of the book

The book presents the findings of the situational analysis of the constituencies assessed.

The next chapter provides an overview of the key findings, including the issues prioritised and the delivery issues. The situational analysis of each constituency is presented in the following chapters. The constituencies are arranged based on their federal constituency code (from lowest to highest).

Each chapter focuses on four main aspects as highlighted, namely, issue mapping; assessment of delivery issues; observation of solution projects; and policy recommendations.

The findings present a bottom-up and grounded approach to identify the issues and solutions to local challenges. While they highlighted a range of challenges in the local context, the APPGM-SDG approach demonstrated that through a multi-stakeholder engagement, involving parliamentarians, researchers, civil society and local stakeholders, solutions can either be found or elevated as a policy priority.

1 The chapters are based on findings synthesised by the researchers through the methodology of grounded research adopted (see sub-section on methodology) and validated by secondary data, where data is available. It does not directly represent the views of any particular stakeholder, including parliamentarians, community leaders, local civil society organisations or government agencies.

# 02

## Situational analysis: **Pendang (P.011), Kedah**



By Assoc Prof Dr Zaheruddin Othman, Dr Nor Suzylah Sohaimi,  
Dr Sharif Shofirun Sharif Ali & Dr Solahuddin Ismail,  
School of Government, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)

## 2.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings

### 2.1.1 Land ownership for Bumiputera Bukan Melayu

The Pendang district covers 629 sq km with a total population of around 109,000. From that figure, more than 98,000 are Malays, Chinese (3,700), Indians (3,000) and others (6,700).<sup>1</sup> The total Siamese population in Kedah is about 32,000.<sup>2</sup> In Pendang, the Siamese population is about 6,000. Most were working as farmers or self-employed in various agriculture jobs. Some were working as rubber tappers, padi farmers or cultivating vegetables.<sup>3</sup> In 2019, the average income in Pendang was RM4,680 compared with RM4,263 in 2016. However, we have to bear in mind that the amount is still low because the figure includes those who work as government servants, businessmen and other jobs.

Even though the Siamese population is around 6,000, the status of land ownership among the community remains unresolved. A majority of them still have not acquired permanent land ownership. To own land for agriculture, they need an agriculture certificate (sijil pertanian), which is difficult to obtain. These are the issues they have been facing in Pendang for many years. The land issue is not limited to the Siamese community but also the Indians in Pendang. In Kg Kongsi Baru, a few Indian families have faced land ownership conflicts. As this is a complex challenge, there is a need for related parties to study the documents, understand and identify the root of the problems. We need to engage with the land surveyor and land officer to understand the ownership challenges.

### 2.1.2 Accessibility and connectivity in Kg Linchan and Felda Sg Tiang

In Kedah, the total length of paved road is 14,654.29km, consisting of paved (13,078.91km), gravel (1,366.94km) and earth (208.44km).<sup>4</sup> This figure shows that road infrastructure is relatively good and people mobilisation is not a problem. Data also indicated that in 2019, Kedah received a total of 14.831 million domestic visitors. From that figure, a majority visited Bandar Alor Setar, Bandar Aman Jaya in Sg Petani, Gunung Jerai, Pulau Langkawi and Tanjung Dawai.<sup>5</sup> Kedah has a high level of basic infrastructure, such as access to electricity (100%), piped water in homes (99.5%) and rubbish collection (52.7%).<sup>6</sup> Meanwhile, Kedah has 749 schools, consisting of primary (547) and secondary (202). The teacher number was 31,492 and pupils (339,123) in 2019.<sup>7</sup>

While generally developed, specific areas still suffered from connectivity. Referring to our field work in Kg Linchan, residents there have no access to a road connecting the orchard area to the main road. The consequence of this is difficulty trying to commercialise local fruits, such as durian. At the same time, it is difficult for tourists or outsiders to access the kampung. We found that Kg Linchan has the

potential to develop into an eco-tourism site. A majority of Kg Linchan has good infrastructure like electricity and piped water. Based on our survey, we concluded that Kg Linchan could be developed into eco-tourism once a road to the orchard is built.

### 2.1.3 Padi farmers' welfare

In 2019, Muda Agricultural Development Authority (MADA) has a planted padi area of 201,324ha. This area yielded rice production of about 668,763 tonnes per year.<sup>8</sup> In Pendang alone, MADA has 22,682ha of padi.<sup>9</sup> Fauzi Husin<sup>10</sup> shows the income gains from his research respondents.

**Table 2.1.** Income of respondents

Income	Frequency	Percent
RM100-RM500	9	6
RM501-RM1,000	60	40
RM1,001-RM1,500	36	24
RM1,501-RM2,000	32	22
>RM2,000	12	8
	150	100

Even though Fauzi's data are nearly a decade old, they could still help us to understand the income pattern among the farmers. The data showed that 40% of respondents earned a net income of RM501-RM1,000 per month. Meanwhile, 24% made RM1,001-RM1,500 per month. Only eight respondents earned more than RM2,000 per month.

We believe the pattern remains the same now. We can see most of the farmers' income falling in the middle range. Their complaints about low income must be considered a major issue. They face alongside the fluctuating padi prices, fertiliser and pesticides issues. Both would also affect their income and productivity.

## 2.2 Assessment of delivery issues

In this research, we studied five locations in Pendang – Kg Nangka Siam, Kg Linchan, Felda Sg Tiang, Kg Kilang Besar and Kg Rambai. The demography includes Malays, Indians, Siamese and Felda settlers. All the five areas have raised challenges related to agricultural land issues, infrastructure and drainage system for many years. However, each area has its own problems.

In Kg Nangka Siam, the Siamese community highlighted red tape involved in applying for and receiving an agriculture certificate, land grant for their Buddhist temple (wat), agriculture drainage issues and fluctuating rubber prices. Based on interviews with the Pendang district officer, he said that all applicants would be processed based upon their citizenship status and race. The Siamese community must meet certain requirements, which could be different from other races, especially Malays. As a note, the Siamese are categorised as Bumiputera. They also face drainage problems on their land. During the monsoon, they suffer from flash floods, resulting in some relocating to other areas.

To understand further this issue, we identified three related government departments. The three agencies are Jabatan Tanah dan Galian Daerah Pendang, Jabatan Parit dan Saliran and Jabatan Pertanian. We suggested face-to-face meetings between the Siamese community and agencies. APPGM acted as a moderator to find the best solutions for them.

Another research location was Kg Linchan, a Malay community about 30 minutes' drive from Pendang town. They highlighted the potential of eco-tourism as a community product and the status of rubber plantations and orchard land. The villagers requested that the plantation road be upgraded into a tarred road to enhance accessibility. To improve marketing of products, they need to set up a cooperative for fruit collection of agricultural products. Currently, there is a lack of centralised collection centre.

The agencies related to these issues are Jabatan Pertanian, Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Berhad (Angkasa), Jabatan Tanah dan Galian Daerah Pendang and national/state tourism agencies. An outcome of the discussions was the agreement to set up a cooperative to help them manage the agricultural products. The APPGM-SDG team could help with Angkasa to form a cooperative to solve the problems.

Meanwhile, in Felda Sg Tiang, the settlers claimed that Felda encouraged them to surrender their plantation for management under the land authority. The settlers also claimed that for replanting, Felda used external contractors. If the settlers did the replanting by themselves, they were not eligible for subsidies. Another hurdle to them is the road to rubber plantations.

Based on dialogue with the settlers, they need to meet Felda management to discuss and solve the issues. The researcher suggests that APPGM-SDG moderate between the two parties.

In Kongsu Baru, eight households who have been working at the rubber estate for 30 years ago are squatters. The land was said to be owned by the late Datuk NTS Arumugam Pillai and there was a verbal agreement to hand over the land. However,

the plantation was sold to a businessman without clear consultation and consent, and the latter converted the rubber trees to oil palms. These households do not contribute assessment rates nor pay rental to the new owner. They also do not allow house renovations and there is an unclear division between the Chinese and Indian cemeteries. It was alleged that the Chinese community had encroached on to the Indian cemetery. The Indian community and the researcher suggest a discussion between the related authorities, such as Pejabat Tanah dan Galian Pendang. This discussion would also help them to meet other parties like the landowner, estate management and cemeteries' management.

In Kg Rambai, most of the residents are Malay farmers. The padi farmers are unhappy about the selective subsidies for certain production. The farmers want insurance for their protection plan. They claimed that the cause of "padi angin" is due to mismanagement of soil and pesticides after harvest. To solve these problems, we suggest authorities like the Agriculture and Food Industries' Ministry get information from farmers to provide infrastructure and protect them from "middlemen". The authorities should also resolve the insurance issues among farmers. Finally, the farmers urge the authorities to involve them in the planning and implementation of the drainage system near the fields.

As a solution, the researcher suggests that APPGM-SDG form a committee between farmers and the authorities like MADA, Agriculture Department, Drainage Department and private parties.

## **2.3 Observations of solution projects**

There were two projects conducted in the Pendang constituency.

### **2.3.1 UUM team**

This group handled the project covering Kg Rambai, Kg Nangka Siam, Felda and the Indian community. Their task was to detail the project and implement it. They visited all the kampung several times and met the people. One of the researchers, who acted as a spokesman, said they met the leaders from each community to get more information. From those discussions, the group tried to find a formula to solve all the problems. We can report that they came up with a positive outcome. The group suggested a dialogue between the kampung folk and the agencies. Each community needs different attention from the authorities. For example, a majority of the Kg Rambai residents were padi farmers and they need to meet MADA. Meanwhile, residents of Kg Nangka Siam need to meet representatives from Pejabat Tanah dan Galian Pendang. For the Indian community, the team suggested a parliamentary caucus to solve the problems. This is because the issue

is complicated and involves many ministries and laws. From our observations, despite the pandemic constraints, the team managed the projects to meet the SDGs. Among the goals were no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, and sustainable cities and communities.

### **2.3.2 Mulia Budi consultant**

Mulia Budi was the consultant in Kg Linchan. Appointed by APPGM to conduct the solution project, they met Kg Linchan spokesmen Tuan Saifuddin a few times. From our conversations with Saifuddin, we understand that the project progress was slow. At the time of writing, it is probably around 25% completion as a result of the pandemic. A base for collecting fruits that was proposed during the dialogue was completed. This collection centre would help Kg Linchan farmers to gather the fruits from the farms before sale to the market.

However, based on our observation and conversations with Saifuddin, the consultant could do the work more effectively. This is because he needs to convince the residents that the project is ongoing. For the residents, this project would address their issues, including boosting Kg Linchan's economy. The SDG goals here were no poverty, zero hunger, clean water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth, reduce inequalities, and sustainable cities and community.

## **2.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion**

These issues could be highlighted by the Pendang MP:

### **2.4.1 Land ownership for Bumiputera Bukan Melayu**

The Bumiputera Bukan Melayu (BBM) land ownership issue has been highlighted by the non-Malays, especially Siamese, for many years. Since 2012, mainstream newspapers have been reporting on the issue. But until now, the government has not solved the problem. They still need to apply for an agriculture certificate (sijil pertanian) to farm. The problem is that the application takes a long time to be approved (and sometimes rejected). Because of this, the Siamese face financial problems because a majority work as farmers. They need to extend the farming land to increase their income. Thus, the state government must solve the sijil pertanian issue to allow them to get more opportunities in the farming sector.

The MP is advised to construct a policy paper to deal with the state government on this issue since land matters belong to the states. To complete a policy paper,



for example, the MP's office should involve multi parties, such as local government authorities, locals, land laws and state government agencies. A new land law regarding land ownership for BBM should be introduced. If the land issue cannot be solved at the state level, the MP must find solutions at the federal level.

### **2.4.2 Felda governance**

In Felda Sg Tiang, the Felda management has an issue with the settlers. During our survey, we found that the two main issues were road connectivity and the second-generation home scheme. These two issues point to mismanagement. During our visit, none of Felda management staff were ready to give feedback because the manager was absent. We found out later that the manager was going to retire and the replacement was yet to be named. The settlers were left in the dark and some had been in the scheme for more than four decades.

We suggest that as Felda is a federal agency, a policy regarding this issue should be established or clarified at the ministry level. Felda has thousands of settlers under its scheme and some need greater efforts to get out of the national poverty level. This is in line with the objective to increase income among settlers. We recommend that the MP highlight this issue in Parliament. We also believe that the issues are not limited to Pendang but in other Felda schemes as well. Hence, this issue is a national one and the minister in charge of Felda should solve the problem.

### **2.4.3 Padi farmers**

Most of the Pendang population work as farmers and more than half in the padi fields. Farming has been a way of life for more than 100 years. In terms of income, we believe farmers' incomes have increased. Modern technology in padi farming was introduced by the government to increase productivity. For example, fertilisers and pesticides helped with growth. However, the cost of fertilisers and pesticides has been increasing at a rate which required the farmers to consult MADA to resolve the issues. MADA came up with a plan to supply the inputs to the farmers but at prices that are higher compared with the market rate.

The farmers also face infrastructure issues, which they called "parit gila". MADA constructed drainage around the padi fields to channel water. However, MADA failed to consult the farmers. Thus, the drainage structure was built in the wrong areas. Because of that, many channels did not work well and it was a waste of funds. MADA is a government agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries. It was established to help padi farmers in the northern region. We recommend that the MP raise this issue with the ministry.

## 2.4.4 Entrepreneurship way forward

The incumbent MP plans to develop Pendang into an entrepreneurial district. He encourages all government agencies in Pendang to innovate and assist in the goal of making Pendang an entrepreneur centre in Kedah. This objective is in line with the state government's policy. During our project visit, the MP's office invited us to join his visit to Kg Linchan. The kampung is about an hour's drive from town. There, we met with residents. The dialogue was about how to develop Kg Linchan into an eco-tourism destination. The residents then mentioned the need to have a fruit collection centre.

The MP agreed to help them. APPGM-SDG suggested that the residents form a cooperative, with APPGM-SDG acting as a consultant. During the fieldwork, the residents brought us to their durian and other fruit farms. Briefing was made by the kampung representative, explaining how that area has potential as an eco-tourism product. We recommend that the MP's office follow up on these issues.

---

1 [https://dosm.gov.my/v1/uploads/files/6\\_Newsletter/Newsletter%202020/DOSM-DOSM-KEDAH-1.2020-Siri-79.pdf](https://dosm.gov.my/v1/uploads/files/6_Newsletter/Newsletter%202020/DOSM-DOSM-KEDAH-1.2020-Siri-79.pdf)

2 <https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2018/03/404026/janji-pm-buat-masyarakat-siam>

3 [https://www.academia.edu/31826330/LATAR\\_BELAKANG\\_DAERAH\\_PENDANG](https://www.academia.edu/31826330/LATAR_BELAKANG_DAERAH_PENDANG)

4 [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu\\_id=YU9jTgdWVINGMkVJMzkwV3dTNTNxdz09](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu_id=YU9jTgdWVINGMkVJMzkwV3dTNTNxdz09)

5 [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu\\_id=ZndOY1BTTEhMaWNsUFV4QXM3VXNMUT09](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu_id=ZndOY1BTTEhMaWNsUFV4QXM3VXNMUT09)

6 [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu\\_id=blNoa09rL3Nqc1MvbnhLb1c3WkFKZz09](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu_id=blNoa09rL3Nqc1MvbnhLb1c3WkFKZz09)

7 [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu\\_id=Z1hCMUUVLQWV0L2tScVlhSmo5eEd3QT09](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu_id=Z1hCMUUVLQWV0L2tScVlhSmo5eEd3QT09)

8 [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu\\_id=RXNRbWdQbkVvVIJPS2kveTJJVDhvdz09](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthree&menu_id=RXNRbWdQbkVvVIJPS2kveTJJVDhvdz09)

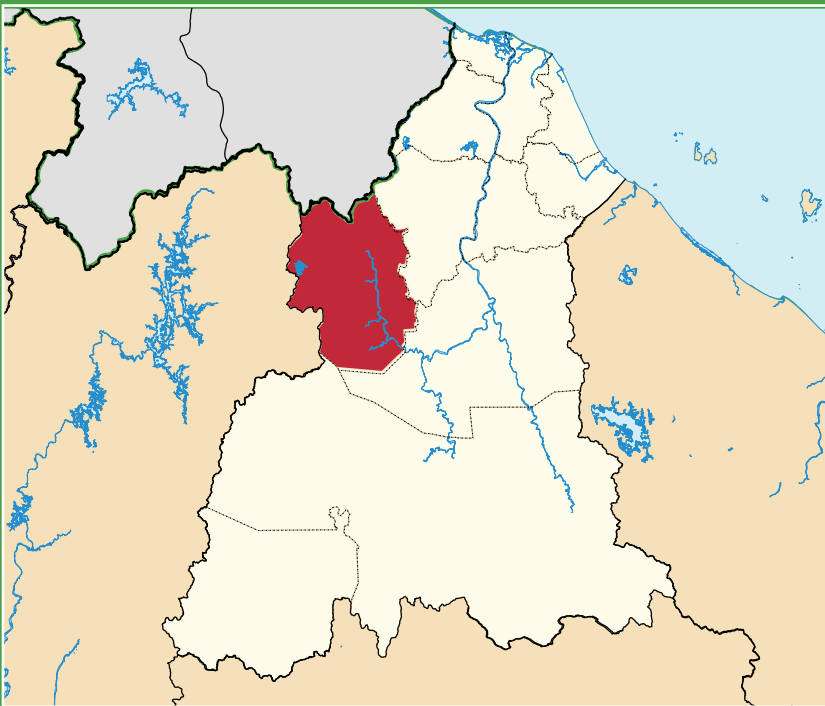
9 [http://www.mada.gov.my/?page\\_id=14059&lang=en](http://www.mada.gov.my/?page_id=14059&lang=en)

10 Hussin, F. (2013). Socio-economic level of paddy farmers under the management of MADA: A case study in Pendang district in Kedah. *Journal of Governance and Development*, 9, 79–92.

# 03

---

## Analisis situasi: **Jeli (P.030), Kelantan**



Oleh **Assoc Prof Dr Wan Ahmad Amir Zal Wan Ismail**,  
Institut Penyelidikan dan Pengurusan Kemiskinan (InsPek),  
Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)

## 3.1 Pemetaan isu dan pengesahan hasil penyelidikan

### 3.1.1 Isu ekonomi

Sumber pendapatan utama penduduk di Jeli, khususnya Kg Air Chanal, adalah daripada sektor pertanian dan penternakan. Ini selaras dengan statistik yang dikeluarkan oleh Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM, 2021) berkaitan keluaran dalam negara kasar (KDNK) Kelantan pada tahun 2020. Sektor pertanian menyumbangkan sebanyak 2.2% kepada KDNK Kelantan, disusuli dengan sektor pembinaan (3.5%).

Namun demikian, penduduk Jeli berhadapan dengan sumber pendapatan yang tidak menentu dan tidak tetap. Misalnya harga komoditi getah tidak stabil dan menurun semasa tempoh kajian. Bagi mengurangkan kos, penduduk mengupah pekerja asing dari Siam untuk menoreh getah. Menurut data dari DOSM (2021), secara umumnya didapati harga purata bagi lateks pekat pada bulan Mei 2021 menurun kepada 623.40 sen sekilo daripada 680.20 sen pada bulan Mac. Harga getah mutu Malaysia 20 (SMR 20) turut jatuh kepada 667.85 sen sekilo berbanding 707.89 sen bagi tempoh yang sama. Namun demikian, jika dibandingkan daripada tahun ke tahun, harga untuk lateks pekat dan SMR 20 meningkat sebanyak 50.8%.

Selain komoditi getah, terdapat sebilangan penduduk Jeli yang mengusahakan ladang kelapa sawit. Antaranya adalah projek yang dikawalselia oleh Pihak Berkuasa Kemajuan Pekebun Kecil Perusahaan Getah (Risda) di mana peladang-peladang menerima dividen dalam jumlah tertentu. Namun demikian, dividen adalah tidak tetap dan dengan kadar yang rendah. Untuk mengangani isu ini, penduduk mengambil tindakan untuk mengusahakan ladang sawit dengan sendiri. Penglibatan penduduk dalam industri kelapa sawit meningkatkan pengeluaran minyak sawit secara langsung. Menurut DOSM (2021), perbandingan bulanan menunjukkan pengeluaran minyak sawit mentah pada Mei 2021 (571,523 tan) meningkat dengan kadar 2.8% berbanding bulan sebelumnya (528,121 tan).

Peluang pekerjaan alternatif di Jeli yang terhad menyebabkan tahap pengangguran yang tinggi. Sebahagian daripada mereka juga mempunyai sumber pendapatan yang tidak menentu dan bergantung kepada permintaan luar termasuk masyarakat Orang Asli. Bagi penduduk yang berkerja, mereka memperolehi pendapatan yang rendah dan sederhana. Menurut statistik DOSM (2020), kadar pengangguran Kelantan serupa dengan Selangor, Perlis dan Sarawak, iaitu sebanyak 4.3%. Namun, kadar penyertaan tenaga buruh (KPTB) Kelantan adalah antara yang terendah di dalam Malaysia iaitu sebanyak 57.9% (DOSM, 2020).

Penduduk berhadapan dengan kos sara hidup yang tinggi termasuklah untuk memperolehi keperluan asas. Laporan daripada DOSM (2021) berkaitan pendapatan dan perbelanjaan –komposisi perbelanjaan penggunaan isi rumah bulanan purata

untuk Kelantan menunjukkan peningkatan perbelanjaan yang ketara antara 2016 dan 2019 disebabkan peningkatan harga kos perbelanjaan. Purata kos perbelanjaan adalah sebanyak RM2,875 sebulan pada 2016 dan meningkat kepada RM3,223 pada 2019.

Sumber pendapatan penduduk juga adalah rendah dan ramai bergantung kepada sumbangan daripada anak-anak yang bekerja di luar negeri. Data DOSM (2021) berkaitan pendapatan isi rumah kasar bulanan penengah dan purata di Jeli menunjukkan penduduk di situ mempunyai pendapatan penengah kedua terendah di Kelantan selepas Kuala Krai, iaitu RM2,943. Purata isi rumah untuk jajahan Jeli juga adalah kedua terendah selepas jajahan kecil Lojing, iaitu RM3,872 sebulan.

Walaupun terdapat minat, potensi lokasi dan pasaran untuk aktiviti ekonomi baharu seperti ekonomi digital, penduduk Jeli tidak mempunyai pengetahuan dan kemahiran untuk menyertai aktiviti tersebut.

Hasil pencarian ini adalah selaras dengan data DOSM (2019) yang menunjukkan 682,400 tenaga buruh di Kelantan terdiri daripada pekerja mahir (19.1%), pekerja separuh mahir (67.8%) dan pekerja berkemahiran rendah (13.1%).

### 3.1.2 Isu-isu belia

Terdapat belia yang bekerja sebagai buruh kasar di luar kampung untuk menampung kos sara hidup dan terdapat sebilangan yang berhijrah ke luar negeri untuk mendapatkan peluang pekerjaan yang lebih baik. Penghijrahan juga berlaku disebabkan oleh kekurangan minat daripada golongan belia untuk bekerja sebagai penoreh getah dan di dalam sektor pertanian. Statistik DOSM (2020) menunjukkan kadar migrasi ke luar negeri bagi Kelantan menurun daripada 37.6% pada 2018 kepada 36.8% pada 2016. Kadar migrasi dalam negeri juga telah menyusut daripada tahun 2016 ke 2018 iaitu sebanyak 53.1% ke 51.4%. Sebaliknya, kadar migrasi ke luar negeri telah meningkat, iaitu sebanyak luar negara yang 11.8% pada 2018 daripada 9.3% bagi 2016.

Persatuan belia di Jeli adalah tidak aktif disebabkan oleh kekurangan golongan belia di kampung. Keadaan ini menimbulkan keresahan penduduk kampung kerana kekurangan tenaga muda untuk menjalankan pelbagai aktiviti. Bilangan golongan tua yang lebih ramai juga menyebabkan populasi di Jeli bakal menjadi masyarakat menua (*aging society*). Menurut data DOSM (2020), Kelantan bakal menjadi negeri menua pada 2023 disebabkan kadar penduduk berumur 65 tahun ke atas melebihi 15% tahap populasi. Akan tetapi, Kelantan telah mencapai status negeri menua pada 2020 di mana data menunjukkan individu berumur antara 60 dan 64 tahun adalah seramai 194,300 orang dan yang berumur 65 ke atas seramai 126,900.

Kebanyakan golongan belia yang sudah tamat menuntut di sekolah menganggur disebabkan tiada peluang pekerjaan. Belia-belia yang berjaya berkerja di luar kampung juga hanya memperolehi upah yang rendah. Hasil dapatan ini juga selaras dengan statistik umum berkaitan tenaga buruh di Kelantan bagi 2020 (DOSM). KPTB dalam Kelantan menurun antara 2019 dan 2020 dari 58.9% ke 57.9%. Kadar penyertaan luar tenaga buruh juga meningkat dari 495,400 di 2019 ke 516,100 di 2020.

### **3.1.3 Isu-isu wanita**

Peluang pekerjaan untuk golongan wanita juga rendah. Wanita di kampung kebanyakannya terlibat dalam aktiviti pertanian dan perladangan. Menurut status umum untuk Kelantan yang dikeluarkan oleh DOSM (2021), terdapat perbezaan ketara dalam KPTB antara jantina. Daripada 711,200 jumlah tenaga buruh di Kelantan, tenaga buruh wanita hanya terdiri daripada 260,900, berbanding dengan lelaki iaitu seramai 450,300. KPTB antara lelaki dan wanita juga semakin mengucup.

Terdapat sebilangan penduduk wanita yang mencari sumber pendapatan alternatif seperti penyertaan dalam ekonomi digital. Namun, mereka memerlukan akses internet yang lebih baik dan kemahiran penggunaan. Peningkatan aktiviti dalam ekonomi digital juga selaras dengan statistik DOSM (2021) yang menunjukkan subsektor perkhidmatan maklumat dan komunikasi Kelantan telah berkembang pada tahap 7.7% pada 2019.

### **3.1.4 Isu-isu kemudahan**

Terdapat sebahagian penduduk yang menghadapi masalah bekalan air bersih terawat dan ada yang menggunakan air dari bukit (air tandak). Antara sebabnya ialah saluran paip air yang usang dan kerap mengalami kerosakan. Ia juga disebabkan oleh lokasi kampung yang jauh dari paip utama manakala sistem paip utama yang sedia ada adalah kurang berfungsi. Dari aspek teknikal, walaupun pihak Air Kelantan Sdn Bhd (AKSB) telah menyediakan loji air dan paip, namun tekanan air lemah. Bekalan air juga semakin terganggu apabila musim kemarau tiba. Aktiviti pembakalan di kawasan bukit pula menyebabkan air menjadi keruh dan berselut. Menurut data dari Kementerian Hal Ehwal Ekonomi (2019), sub indeks kualiti air di Kelantan telah berkurangan sebanyak 2.8 m.p. daripada 102.1 m.p. pada 2011 kepada 99.3 m.p. pada 2017.

Kebanyakan penduduk menghadapi masalah capaian internet yang lemah. Ini menjejaskan aktiviti penyertaan dalam pendidikan dan penglibatan dalam aktiviti e-dagang. Terdapat pelajar-pelajar yang terpaksa keluar ke pekan berhampiran untuk mendapatkan akses internet disebabkan kekurangan kemudahan komputer dan capaian internet. Selain itu, terdapat penduduk yang tidak mampu memiliki

peralatan elektronik seperti komputer, tablet atau telefon pintar. Statistik DOSM (2021) berkaitan capaian dan penggunaan internet dan media massa Kelantan bagi 2020 menunjukkan capaian komputer secara relatifnya adalah rendah dan semakin menurun dalam tempoh tiga tahun (Jadual 3.1).

**Jadual 3.1.** Kadar pencapaian komputer, telefon bimbit dan internet

Tahun	2018	2019	2020
Komputer (%)	59.2	58.2	56.6
Telefon bimbit (%)	98.3	97.2	97.3
Internet (%)	81.8	83.4	89.3

Sumber: DOSM (2021)

### 3.2 Penilaian isu ketersampaian

Berkaitan dengan isu ketersampaian, banyak isu-isu yang diluahkan oleh penduduk-penduduk tidak berasaskan data dan fakta konkrit. Namun, setelah data dikumpulkan dari pelbagai sudut, beberapa penemuan baharu telah diperolehi.

Isu dividen sering dibangkitkan oleh masyarakat Orang Asli di Kg Sungai Rual yang mengusahakan ladang kelapa sawit di bawah seliaan Risda, iaitu mereka tidak menerima sebarang dividen sejak 2013 sehingga kini. Namun dakwaan ini adalah tidak benar sepenuhnya. Menurut Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli (JAKOA), sebab utama isu tersebut adalah masyarakat Orang Asli tidak bersetuju dengan pembahagian dividen yang tidak konsisten. Sebaliknya, mengharapkan dividen yang konsisten yang telah diperolehi sebelum 2013 tetapi dengan kadar yang lebih tinggi untuk setiap bulan.

Kebanyakan golongan belia berhijrah ke luar kampung kerana kesukaran memperolehi pekerjaan. Terdapat belia dalam kampung yang mengusahakan kebun dan penternakan ayam tetapi menghadapi masalah kekurangan modal untuk membina ladang ternakan ayam.

Masalah bekalan air bersih terawat juga merupakan masalah utama. Kebanyakan penduduk dikelengkapi paip air yang disediakan oleh pihak AKSB, tetapi masih perlu menggunakan air boring sebagai sumber alternatif disebabkan tekanan air yang lemah dan struktur paip yang berusia.

Terdapat kampung-kampung yang mengalami kesukaran untuk memperolehi perkhidmatan telefon dan internet. Di Jeli, hanya beberapa syarikat telko sahaja yang mempunyai rangkaian dan capaian internet. Ini telah menyukarkan pembelajaran

pelajar-pelajar secara atas talian sepanjang tempoh perintah kawalan pergerakan (PKP).

Isu yang paling ketara adalah hak milik tanah di Kg Air Chanal yang disebabkan oleh dua faktor, iaitu:

- tempoh dan proses permohonan pemilikan tanah yang terlalu lama (terdapat pemohon yang memohon sejak 2010 dan sehingga kini masih tiada maklum balas daripada Pejabat Tanah); dan
- terdapat kira-kira 20% penduduk kampung yang tidak memohon pemilikan tanah.

### **3.3 Pemantauan pelaksanaan projek solusi**

Bagi menyelesaikan beberapa isu yang didepani oleh komuniti, empat (4) projek solusi telah dilaksanakan dalam jangka masa pendek, iaitu:

- perusahaan penanaman cendawan tiram kelabu di Kg Orang Asli, Sg Rual
- perusahaan sosial inoproduct (batik) di Sg Rual
- pembangunan produk eko pelancongan di Gunung Reng
- penternakan ikan tilapia dan patin di Kg Jerimbong.

Berikut adalah perkembangan semasa keempat-empat projek tersebut:

#### **3.3.1 Perusahaan penanaman cendawan tiram kelabu, Kg Orang Asli, Sg Rual**

Program ini bertujuan untuk melatih belia Orang Asli untuk menceburi bidang pertanian berasaskan penanaman cendawan tiram untuk meningkatkan sumber pendapatan. Peserta-peserta terdiri daripada lima belia lelaki Orang Asli yang diberikan sebanyak 5,000 bongkah cendawan matang.

Projek ini berterusan selama enam bulan di tapak sekolah lama di perkampungan Orang Asli, Sg Rual. Projek ini telah dibimbing oleh Dr Noor Hafizoh Saidan, pensyarah kanan dan penyelidik bersekutu di Institut Penyelidikan dan Pengurusan Kemiskinan (InsPeK), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan.

Program ini dilaksanakan melalui pelbagai kaedah seperti syarahan, demonstrasi, praktikal dan secara "hands on". Kandungan latihan merangkumi perkara-perkara berikut:



- pengetahuan asas terhadap cendawan
- kebaikan cendawan dan produk hilliran cendawan tiram kelabu
- kaedah penanaman cendawan tiram kelabu
- kawalan serangan perosak dan kontaminasi
- penjagaan rumah cendawan
- kaedah memetik hasil cendawan
- pengendalian lepas tuai dan kaedah pembungkusan cendawan segar
- amalan pengurusan baik
- pemasaran cendawan tiram secara atas talian.

Di penghujung program, didapati peserta-peserta mampu melaksanakan kaedah penanaman cendawan tiram mengikut langkah-langkah yang betul dengan menggunakan penilaian secara pemerhatian dan senarai semak tugas. Cendawan tiram juga berjaya dituai dan dijual dalam tempoh pelaksanaan projek. Selain itu, terdapat peningkatan dalam pengetahuan peserta-peserta berkaitan penjagaan rumah cendawan dan makhluk perosak. Akhir sekali, para peserta telah berjaya memasarkan produk mereka melalui perniagaan atas talian (e-perniagaan, WhatsApp dan bersemuka) dan menjana hasil pendapatan.

### **3.3.2 Perusahaan sosial inoproduct (batik) Sg Rual**

Projek perusahaan sosial inoproduct (batik) Sg Rual mempunyai tiga objektif iaitu untuk memelihara kualiti alam sekitar, meningkatkan pengetahuan golongan wanita Orang Asli dengan pengetahuan baharu dan menjana sumber pendapatan. Penjana sumber pendapatan dapat direalisasikan melalui penglibatan peserta dan keluarga yang memperolehi upah berdasarkan produk batik yang dihasilkan. Secara khususnya peserta dapat mengasah, mempraktik, mengukuhkan dan memperkembangkan kemahiran dengan menghasilkan produk batik yang berkualiti dan beridentitikan Orang Asli Sg Rual. Mereka juga diasah dengan pengetahuan untuk menggunakan media sosial dan menguruskan perniagaan dalam talian.

Bagi memastikan projek ini mempunyai nilai kelestarian, pasukan projek memastikan terdapat jalinan kerjasama dengan pihak industri batik. Ini termasuklah dengan membantu berkongsi kepakaran, memberi nasihat dan produk pemula dalam berurusan secara atas talian dan bersemuka.

### **3.3.3 Pembangunan produk eko pelancongan di Gunung Reng**

Projek ini bertujuan untuk memperkasakan eko pelancongan di Jeli dengan memberi tumpuan khusus kepada lokasi ikonik – Gunung Reng. Projek ini bukan

sahaja mampu meningkatkan imej eko pelancongan di Gunung Reng, tetapi juga menjadi projek peneraju pemeliharaan dan pemuliharaan alam sekitar di Jeli.

Pelaksanaannya adalah dengan penawaran pelbagai produk eko pelancongan yang secara tidak langsung dapat mengekalkan keaslian sumber alam semula jadi sedia ada dan menambahkan lagi sumber baharu. Ini dapat memastikan kawasan ini dapat dinikmati bersama dalam jangka masa yang panjang.

Hasil pemetaan pasukan mendapati terdapat lebih daripada 10 kawasan lata dan air terjun yang penuh dengan sejarah, keunikan dan tarikan yang tersendiri. Bagi memastikan maklumat ini dapat disampaikan dengan berkesan, sebuah pusat informasi dibina.

Selain itu, terdapat tindakan untuk memperkasakan ekonomi penduduk tempatan melalui pelbagai aktiviti dan produk pelancongan yang ditawarkan kepada pelancong. Ini secara langsung dapat meningkatkan peluang pekerjaan untuk belia kampung dan penduduk setempat.

Pada masa yang sama, program ini mampu mewujudkan lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan kepada penduduk setempat melalui aktiviti pelancongan seperti malim gunung, jurupandu arah, pemandu pelancong dan pengusaha kedai makan/restoran atau gerai.

Pelancongan berasaskan masyarakat (*community-based tourism*) seperti program homestay di bawah Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya Malaysia (Motac) juga mampu memberikan impak ekonomi yang besar kepada penduduk setempat.

### **3.3.4 Penternakan ikan tilapia dan patin di Kg Jerimbong**

Projek ini bermatlamat untuk menjana pendapatan untuk penduduk di Jeli di samping meningkatkan tahap modal insan. Pada fasa pertama, enam orang peserta berjaya menternak 30,000 ekor anak ikan air tawar.

Kini, projek ini memberikan hasil yang memberasangkan kerana tahap pembesaran ikan telah mencapai tahap maksimum seperti yang telah dirancang. Bagi fasa pertama, anggaran hasil adalah sebanyak 5 hingga 7tan ikan yang dituai pada akhir bulan Julai 2021.

Bagi menjamin kelestarian program, hasil penjualan ikan kelak akan dikawal oleh pihak UMK. Ini bagi memastikan penggunaan modal pusingan pertama dapat digunakan untuk pusingan seterusnya. Pada masa yang sama, para peserta diajar proses penjualan secara terus di beberapa lokasi yang dikenal pasti seperti Kuala Balah dan Jerimbong dan diberi jaminan pasaran berasaskan konsep *contract farming*.

### 3.4 Penutup

Kajian dan penyelidikan yang dilakukan di peringkat awal telah berjaya mengenal pasti banyak isu-isu yang dihadapi oleh komuniti. Isu tersebut telah diselaraskan dengan data sekunder di peringkat kebangsaan dan negeri yang diperolehi daripada sumber dan rujukan yang berkualiti. Dengan kaedah ini, maklumat yang diperolehi dapat disahkan untuk melaksanakan tindakan seterusnya.

Kajian ini juga menemui beberapa isu ketersediaan perkhidmatan dalam komuniti. Banyak isu yang berlaku telah diberikan perhatian dan tindakan segera kerana ia melibatkan kesejahteraan dan kemudahan asas kehidupan masyarakat.

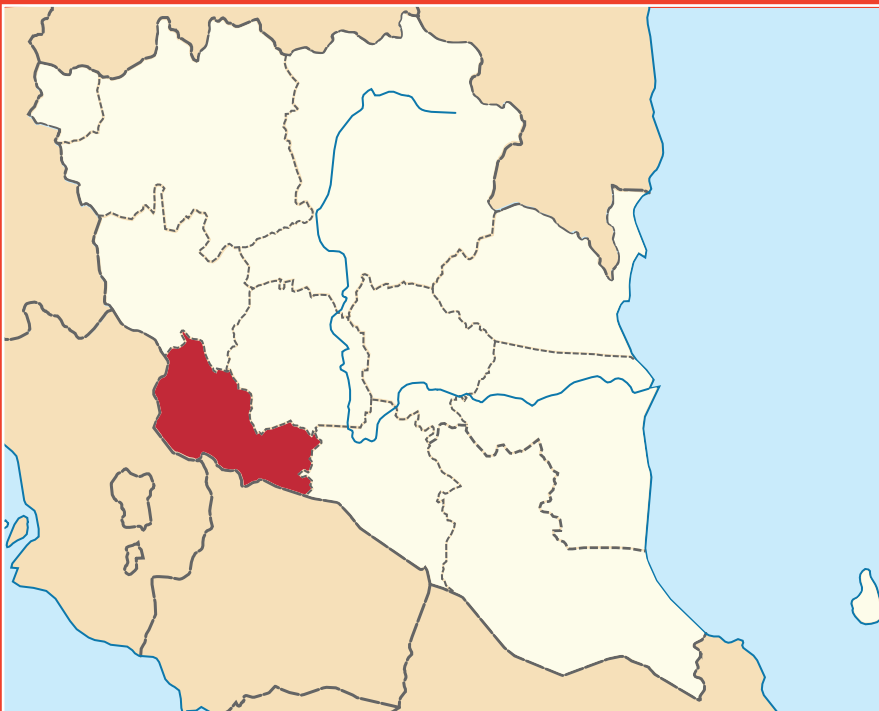
Bagi memastikan beberapa isu yang diutamakan dapat diselesaikan dalam jangka masa yang pendek, empat (4) projek solusi telah dilaksanakan. Penyertaan dari kalangan komuniti adalah memberangsangkan dan bersesuaian dengan potensi dan keperluan mereka. Usaha ini dapat direalisasikan dengan menggunakan kepakaran dari InsPeK.

Kesimpulannya, kajian yang dilaksanakan oleh pasukan penyelidik daripada Kumpulan Rentas Parti Parlimen Malaysia berkenaan Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari (APPGM-SDG) telah berjaya mengenal pasti isu kritikal yang dialami oleh komuniti. Cadangan yang diberikan juga selaras dengan potensi dan keperluan dalam komuniti yang dijangka mampu memberi perubahan yang lebih positif kepada komuniti yang terlibat.

# 04

---

## Situational analysis: **Bentong (P.089), Pahang**



By Assoc Prof Dr Khairul Azami Sidek,  
Office of Industrial Links,  
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

## 4.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings

### 4.1.1 Awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among Bentong folk

During the launch of Wawasan Kemakmuran Bersama in 2019, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad mentioned that Malaysia has implemented the principles of SDG 2030 through the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP). The 11MP gives priority to the people to ensure that no layer of society is left out of sustainable development. The main objective of SDGs is to produce a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world.

The SDGs' importance is undeniable. Unfortunately, some in the community, including stakeholders in the Bentong parliamentary area, lack the knowledge nor are they curious about the concept of SDG itself, despite its launch by the United Nations more than five years ago. During a few sessions with local and state agencies alongside civil society groups, a majority were unaware of the existence of SDGs. Higher authorities should be familiar with SDGs to be able to map their field of work with the goals, targets and indicators. With this understanding, it is hoped that the authorities will address the challenges faced in the community to achieve SDG objectives. Therefore, an introductory workshop on SDGs led by the Sejahtera Centre for Sustainability and Humanity of International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) was conducted on 28 September 2020 in Felda Lurah Bilut.

Feedback from the participants showed that 38.1% agreed and 61.9% strongly agreed that they have gained new knowledge throughout the workshop. The percentage reflects the main issue that a fundamental understanding of SDGs needs to be conveyed and transferred to the community. This one-day workshop received the support of MP Wong Tack, who was also present, was a success in terms of achieving its objectives through activities designed to create awareness of the SDG principles among local authorities and civil society.

### 4.1.2 Agriculture activities and market linkages

The Bentong district has a land area of 1,831 sq km. In 2019, the Department of Agriculture identified an area of 103,563ha of idle land involving 46,382 lots in Peninsular Malaysia, including Labuan. However, Bentong has the highest idle land area (9,510.40ha) in Pahang as in Table 4.1. The idle land indicates plots which are available, left unused and not beneficial, when the areas could provide local food stocks as well as generate income for the community.

**Table 4.1.** Idle land by district 2019 – Pahang

No.	State	Lot no.	Area (ha)
1	Bentong	1,194	9,510.40
2	Bera	414	457.03
3	Jerantut	1,501	1,915.25
4	Kuantan	1,197	2,442.94
5	Lipis	1,810	3,900.29
6	Maran	1,044	1,874.49
7	Pekan	1,255	1,864.22
8	Raub	793	2,978.95
9	Rompin	783	1,744.71
10	Temerloh	1,301	2,702.31
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,292</b>	<b>29,390.59</b>

According to former agriculture and agro-based industry minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, in 2017, the production of Bentong ginger from 395ha was about 7,000 tonnes and Pahang was one of the largest producers of ginger with a total production of 7,528.52 tonnes. This shows that there is high demand from domestic and foreign markets for Bentong ginger. However, from our discussions with the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama), they still lack marketing links and avenues for the produce to be sold locally (i.e. in wet and dry markets).

The development and growth of the agriculture sector also shows that there is a need to coach local farmers in agriculture (sustainable farming). As most of them have plots of lands, sustainable farming might assist them to utilise their land ecologically. If such facilities exist, the farmers can access more training on the marketing of agricultural products. This could also lead to the concept of eco-tourism in the agriculture sector, such as in Cameron Highlands. With the establishment of such a centre, the agropreneur and agriculture programmes would be able to reduce the unemployment rate in Bentong that increased 0.4% from 2018 to 2019. This issue is also related to the socio-economy gap analysis of local communities in Bentong, where one of the gaps included a lack of awareness of employability and entrepreneurship. The study supports the argument that there is lack of knowledge and skills to market Bentong's products. A lack of networking is another area that requires assistance and training.

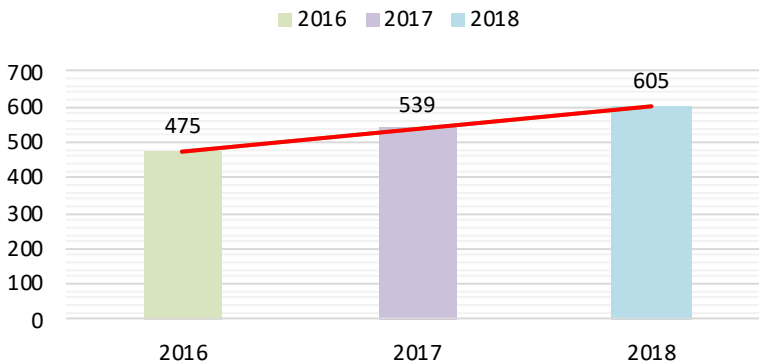
Yet, the focus of sustainable development is the strength of local resources and their potentials. This would be in line with the Rancangan Fizikal Negara Ketiga (RFN 3) for the Bentong district where the development will focus on agriculture at the national level and at the state level, Rancangan Struktur Negeri Pahang 2050 (RSNP 2050). The potential is huge as Bentong has ample green and is situated near the Klang Valley region where the demand for local crops is boundless.

Yayasan Kajian dan Pembangunan Masyarakat (YKPM), as one of the members in the Bentong APPGM-SDG team, was tasked with establishing a small-scale sustainable farming centre in Karak based on the budget approved by the secretariat. This initiative benefitted a few farmers and there is hope to expand it to the nearby community. The centre might be fully utilised after the Covid-19 pandemic.

### 4.1.3 Health issues – chronic diseases

Up until the year 2018, Bentong had only one public hospital (able to support up to 152 patients at one time) and 22 government clinics. In the preliminary visit, the group identified a cancer cluster in Bentong in Kg Lengkong, Karak, where a few households suffered from this chronic disease. This is supported by the increase in the total of medically certified deaths in Bentong from 2016-2018 (Figure 4.1). Based on the situation, most of them were diagnosed with chronic diseases.

**Figure 4.1.** Total of medically certified deaths in Bentong



In line with the theme of leaving no one behind, the Bentong APPGM-SDG team decided to focus on government-assisted financial aid. Some locals, especially those who suffered from cancers, were not aware of the government financial aid through the Peka B40 and MySalam initiatives (during the Pakatan Harapan administration). Thus, a screening programme was held to identify the main factors that affected them and to raise awareness of the aid for chronic-disease patients. The purpose was to improve the detection of critical illnesses, perform a health screening and community portfolio and increase public awareness of the aid schemes. The project was supposed to be led by the National Cancer Society Malaysia (NCSM) and assisted by IIUM to go to the ground and meet as many people as possible and identify local community with health issues. However, when Covid-19 hit the world and Malaysia in March 2020, the team had to shelve the programme because of restrictions under the movement-control order (MCO).

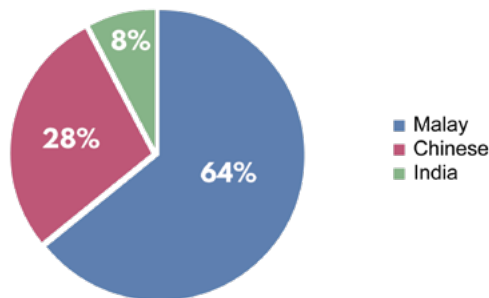
NCSM was able to do one programme of health screening in the Orang Asli village of Kg Sg Dua, Karak during the recovery movement-control order (RMCO) in 2021.

In May 2020, 60 respondents took part in an online survey to assess the impact of Covid-19 on local residents in the parliamentary constituency of Bentong.<sup>1</sup> Out of the total respondents, 35 people or 58.3% were female, whereas 25 people or 41.7% were male. A total of 40 people or 66.7% described their occupational background as people with no disabilities, not in the category of ageing population, non-indigenous people, non-refugees, non-migrants and non-farmers, presumed to work in the offices, as the online survey was also sent to stakeholders from government and private agencies. A total of 16.7% of the respondents or 10 people declared themselves as self-employed. As a result, around 10% of the community were still unaware of the aid. However, more than 35% claimed that they do not have access to government assistance.

#### 4.1.4 Muhibbah project – Felda Lurah Bilut

Felda 2.0 is a leapfrog programme after the success of the rural land development reform programme. It aims to create a competitive community able to face the current challenges.<sup>2</sup> The visit to Felda Lurah Bilut was an eye-opener for national unity. The scheme was the brainchild of the second prime minister, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein. The total number of settlers in Felda Lurah Bilut is 616. Out of this total, 394 (63.96%) were Malay, 169 (27.44%) Chinese and 47 (7.63%) Indian (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2. Ethnicity in Felda Lurah Bilut



Felda Lurah Bilut started from a forest area (a valley in the Titiwangsa Range bordering Sg Bilut and Hutan Simpan Klau) that was fully explored by the settlers until it became a planned settlement like today. Many developments happened in Felda Lurah Bilut, one of the Faldas in the Bentong district. The settlement enjoys good internet connection and facilities like community halls, namely Dewan Semai Bakti Felda Lurah Bilut, Muzium Felda Lurah Bilut, D'mart Felda Lurah Bilut, Perpustakaan Desa Felda Lurah Bilut, Chinese Methodist Church Bilut, Masjid Al-Falahi Felda Lurah Bilut and schools.



Having different races living together in a strategic location also promotes mutual understanding. Taking advantage of the facilities provided by the government to the first Felda settlement in Malaysia, it should be fully utilised and the integration of different races replicated in different neighbourhoods throughout the country as a sustainable society. This type of framework is called a unity or muhibbah society. Factors that promote disunity among races should be set aside so that the nation can move forward. Felda Lurah Bilut has set an example of a united society that should be promoted all over the country.

After a discussion between the Bentong APPGM-SDG team and the MP's office, a local NGO in Felda Lurah Bilut called Generasi Bentong was tasked with producing a video to showcase the harmony in Felda Lurah Bilut. Generasi Bentong conceptualised the video, produced a script, hired equipment and cast the actors. However, the film could not be completed as the group has not obtained any approval from the relevant authority to shoot during the various MCOs.

## 4.2 Assessment of delivery issues

The three capacity building initiatives proposed earlier included: (i) SDG workshops for civil servants and civil society groups, (ii) natural farming workshops, and (iii) health screening and awareness programmes. These are briefly discussed in the next section.

The first capacity building was a workshop entitled Mainstreaming SDG: Society as agent of change. The objectives were to introduce SDG concepts and enhance the understanding of SDGs among civil servants, civil society groups and community representatives. It met its objective as illustrated in the pre- and post-workshop questionnaires, which showed a significant increase in the score on SDG knowledge. The workshop can be considered as successful as all the contents were delivered and results show that there has been an increase of knowledge on SDGs among the participants. However, the number of participants was not encouraging. Participation could be increased, especially from government agencies and local authorities since most of the participants are not familiar with the SDG concepts. The course could create a multiplier effect.

The second capacity building programme was Bengkel konsep agro-forestri: Proses pertanian semulajadi berfokuskan kepada teknik 18 hari pengkomposan panas Berkeley (18-day Berkeley hot composting). The programme was organised by Cradle Seed Ventures and Persatuan Penggerak Hijau (PPH) Bentong. The objectives were to provide training (theory and practical) on the concept and application of sustainable farming, including coaching local farmers and Orang Asli on sustainable agriculture in terms of the nutrient benefits and cash crops.

The content included introducing the participants to the concept of ecology “dari benih ke meja”, exposure to the types of compost and the process to construct the 18-day Berkeley hot composting. Five communities benefitted from the workshop session – those from Sg Dua Hulu, Kg Sungai Dua, Simpang Pelangai, PTA SK Sg Dua and PPH committee members. However, the knowledge could be shared wider. The main target was the Orang Asli, yet not one representative appeared at the workshop over Covid fears even though it was conducted during the RMCO.

The third capacity building was the health screening and awareness programme which was proposed by NCSM. A one-day health screening programme was held in Kg Orang Asli Sg Dua by NCSM in the third quarter of 2020. Its objective was achieved, which was to improve the detection of critical illnesses and perform health screening and community portfolio.

## **4.3 Observations of solution projects**

The proposed solution projects for the Bentong constituency included: (i) centre for sustainable farming, (ii) health screening and government aid awareness, and (iii) muhibbah project.

### **4.3.1 Centre for sustainable farming**

The centre for sustainable farming is the first solution project. The purpose was to ensure local farmers understand the concept of sustainable farming and the nutritional facts of natural farming. The project was established between May and October 2020 at Sg Dua, Karak. It was led by YKPM to train and coach locals on natural farming.

This project could address issues like lack of agriculture activities and concerns about market access, unemployment, food security, etc. Some activities planned previously include:

- training and coaching on natural farming;
- study on the potential of certain agricultural products as an economic driver;
- agropreneuer programme for improving marketing access and linkages for agricultural products;
- logistical support for agricultural products.

The APPGM-SDG secretariat has visited the site for a follow up on the project.

### 4.3.2 Health screening and government aid awareness

In the preliminary visit, the research team identified a community in Bentong who suffered from chronic diseases. They were living in Kg Lengkong, Karak, where a few households in the neighbourhood also suffered from different types of cancers. Some were not aware of the government financial aid, especially for cancer patients who can apply for assistance through the Peka B40 and MySalam initiatives (during the Pakatan Harapan administration). NCSM held a screening programme for cancer patients after our field visit to identify the main factors that affected them and raise awareness of the aid for chronic disease patients.

The second solution project was health screening and government aid awareness. The purpose of this project was to improve the detection of critical illnesses among the community, perform a health screening and community portfolio and raise public awareness of the government aid schemes. The project was supposed to take place from June to September 2020 at multiple satellite locations and led by NCSM. Some activities planned included:

- health screening
- health awareness
- community profiling
- aid awareness

NCSM was able to organise a health screening in Kg Sg Dua in September 2020 and planned to hop from one location to another in Bentong. However, not long after that, the government declared the MCO, which prohibited the movement of people, especially across states.

### 4.3.3 Muhibbah project

The third solution project was the muhibbah project. Its purpose was to promote national unity among Malaysians by producing a short film, taking into consideration the social structure of Felda Lurah Bilut that consists of three races – Malay, Chinese and Indian. At the same time, it was to empower the support system of Felda Lurah Bilut to encourage social harmony. The project, to be led by Generasi Bentong, was planned for June to September 2020. The team had the storyline, scripts, sets and actors but the project was halted because of the MCO. It has yet to resume although Generasi Bentong has asked the APPGM-SDG secretariat to seek approval from the authorities to start shooting.

## 4.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion

This report elaborates on the validation of findings in the preliminary reports, assessment of delivery issues and observations of solution projects. Few capacity building projects did take place although local participation was low. This might be one of the challenges because of the MCO restrictions and guidelines during the pandemic. However, through the APPGM-SDG platform, the team managed to identify the issues present in Bentong. But budgetary constraints meant that the team had to prioritise issues discussed with the MP. If external funding is available, the other issues could be addressed.

We are grateful for the support from Bentong MP YB Wong Tack, stakeholders, local and national civil society groups, community leaders, Orang Asli communities and others who have contributed directly or indirectly to the project. This team hopes that all the solution projects will be completed post-pandemic and can be sustained by the local communities in Bentong.

---

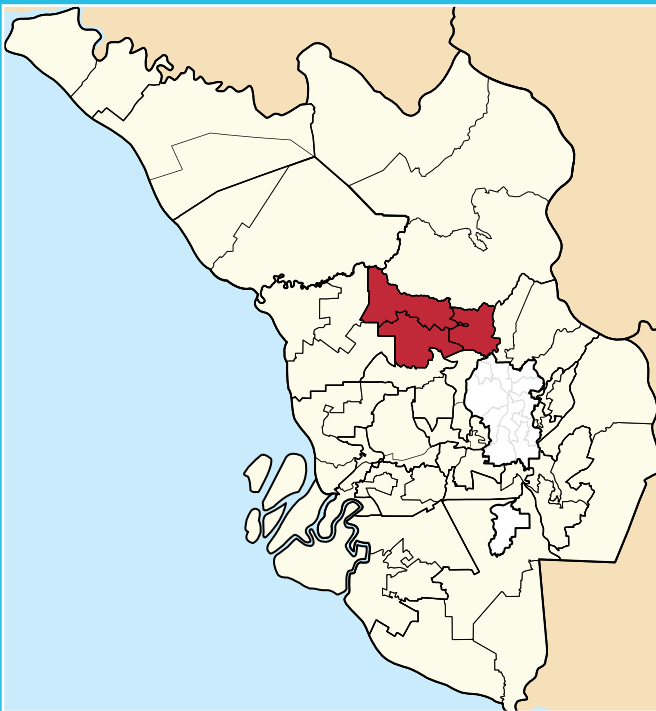
1 Survey on impact of Covid-19 (2020) on local residents in Bentong, <https://bit.ly/BorangKajiSelidikBentong>

2 Transformasi Felda Lurah Bilut kepada Lembah Digital Bilut (Felda 2.0), <http://feldalurahbilut.pjk.com.my/index.php/warga-pi1m/maklumat-pi1m/sejarah>

# 05

---

## Situational analysis: **Selayang (P.097), Selangor**



By **Asst Prof Dr Lau Zhe Wei**,  
Department of Political Science,  
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

## 5.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings

### 5.1.1 Immigrants/refugees

According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (2020),<sup>1</sup> the number of workers in Malaysia stands at 14.776 million. This amounts to 45.63% of the population (32.382 million). Out of the 14.776 million workers, 12.593 million are citizens while the balance of 2.183 million are non-citizens. In other words, non-citizens constitute 14.77% of the overall workforce.

Among the non-citizen workforce, only 5.6% are skilled workers while half-skilled and low-skilled workers constitute 56.4% and 38.1% respectively. Most are salaried workers (84.0%) while another 12.3% are self-employed. The balance of 3.7% is either employers or non-salaried family workers.

In Selayang, stakeholders engaged in this research included the MP's office, civil society, community leaders and residents. Selayang was selected as it has a large number of immigrants and refugees. From the number of Covid-19 cases during the enhanced movement-control order (EMCO) period in Selayang, the large number of foreign workers, legally or illegally working in the area, tallied with the statements made by stakeholders based in the constituency. According to Low et al.,<sup>2</sup> refugees mostly reside in Klang Valley. Although these immigrants are protected under United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Malaysia is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. Going by the definition of persons of concern by UNHCR, Selangor tops the list in Malaysia with 66,030 people while Kuala Lumpur comes second with 27,370 people.<sup>3</sup>

According to the local stakeholders, these foreigners are often stereotyped by the locals. From their feedback, they are often blamed for the unconducive environment, such as crime rate, diseases and other issues. As reported by the Department of Statistics (2019), the crime rate ratio for 2018 in Selangor was the second highest in the country – at 330.8 cases for every 100,000 population after Kuala Lumpur (642.6 cases).<sup>4</sup> For the refugees themselves, they often live in a state of fear and anxiety because of the lack of legal status.<sup>5</sup> This stereotyping also contributes to the tension between locals and migrants. This is because the stereotype stirs hatred among them.<sup>6</sup>

This feedback is supported by Datuk Seri Rosli Sulaiman, president for Malaysian Federation of Hawkers and Petty Traders Association, who claimed that most of the foreign traders in the Selayang market were operating without a licence.<sup>7</sup> During the EMCO's enforcement in Selayang Baru, director-general of immigration Datuk Khairul Dzaimie Daud said the department checked on 1,683 foreigners during an operation.<sup>8</sup> Most of them worked in the Selayang wholesale market. This number can be considered as big as the operation only covered part of the EMCO areas.

The situation was alarming enough to compel Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa and Kuala Lumpur City Council to install 100 closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) around the area to curb illegal immigrants from carrying out businesses.<sup>9</sup>

### 5.1.2 Low-cost housing

The income for Selayang Municipal Council ranked sixth out of 12 local councils in Selangor in 2016.<sup>10</sup> In terms of total population according to districts, Gombak district ranked fourth out of nine districts in Selangor in 2010. Petaling, Hulu Langat and Klang were the districts with a larger population compared with Gombak.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, the housing density in Gombak district ranks fourth out of nine districts in 2010 after Petaling, Hulu Langat and Klang.<sup>12</sup>

Although low-cost housing is targeted at those in need of such facility, there are reports of abuse by those who managed to secure a unit. According to the secretary-general for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, low-cost houses and People's Housing Programme (Projek Perumahan Rakyat, PPR) have been misused and rented to others, including foreigners.<sup>13</sup> He urged the state government to work with the ministry to crack down on those who flouted the law. Selangor executive councillor Haniza Talha issued a similar warning. The state government will invoke Section 38(2) of the Selangor Housing and Real Property Board Enactment and act against those who rented their units.<sup>14</sup> This is in line with the data collected during fieldwork where most of the stakeholders complained that many of the low-cost units were rented to others, especially foreigners. This led to an influx of foreigners in these housing areas.

One of the problems raised by the local stakeholders regarding the occupants in low-cost housing was their reluctance to pay maintenance fees. This tallies with *The Star* report (2009) of residents refusing to pay the maintenance fees, with some accumulating outstanding fees of between RM5,000 and RM15,000.<sup>15</sup> As a result, the joint management body (JMB) lacks funds to ensure a more conducive environment for the residents. This indirectly reduces the ability of the JMB to engage in cleaning services in the area.

### 5.1.3 Non-conducive environment and illegal waste

Stakeholders also raised the issue of the non-conducive environment in the Selayang constituency. Apart from the influx of immigrants, rubbish is another issue that caused uneasiness among the residents.

According to the Majlis Perbandaran Selayang (MPS) website, rubbish collection for flats, apartments and condominiums is supposed to be six times a week, excluding Sundays.<sup>16</sup> Residents, however, dispute this. KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd

had to establish a complaint centre named centralised command centre (CCC) to handle the volume of complaints.<sup>17</sup> At the same time, there were cases of large-scale rubbish dumping.<sup>18</sup> Some may be the work of syndicates.<sup>19</sup>

One of the charity organisations which the team visited, Cheshire Home, raised similar concerns. There were reports in the newspapers of rubbish dumped illegally and affecting the residents' quality of life.<sup>20</sup> The current location of the charity home is no longer a conducive place for its residents. Multiple complaints have been made to the authorities but nothing seems to be able to solve the problem.

## **5.2 Assessment of delivery issues**

### **5.2.1 Inefficiency**

During the fieldwork, stakeholders alleged that the authorities are not efficient when it came to executing their duties. Some officers have ignored the needs of the community. According to them, for instance, when the left-behind community sought help from the welfare officers, they either have less inclination to take up the case or the duration taken to deal with the case was too long. This mostly affected residents in low-cost housing. The officers need to put in more effort in dealing with the community as they were among those most in need of help and advice.

Another example is the issue of rubbish dumping. As explained in Section 5.1.3, local stakeholders and residents claimed that MPS did not collect the rubbish according to the schedule. This causes inconvenience and leads to a non-conducive environment. However, MPS denied that it has failed to follow the schedule. From here, we can see that there are two contradictory versions of rubbish collection. From the fieldwork, rubbish was scattered all over the constituency, especially in residential areas. MPS may need to work out a plan or to be more visible when carrying out its duties.

### **5.2.2 Dealing with red tape**

In the case of foreigners in Selayang, they faced much hindrance when dealing with the authorities. According to the spokesmen for the illegal immigrants, their situation can be categorised into two groups. The first group consists of those who do not dare to seek assistance from government agencies whenever they face a problem. This includes cases of extortion from officers but they do not report their case because of their illegal status.



The second group consists of those willing to seek assistance from government agencies but because of their status, the officers either could not help them because of red tape or do not care about the community. Therefore, they are forced to seek help from civil society groups. For those accorded refugee status by UNHCR, Malaysia is not a signatory to the convention. Therefore, in Malaysia, their status is technically that of an illegal immigrant.

Another red tape noted by the team is the overlapping of jurisdiction between agencies because of geographical areas or subject matter. As Selayang (which is part of Selangor) borders Kuala Lumpur, it becomes problematic when officers carry out their duties. Often, they are restrained by the geographical border between agencies. As for subject matters, different agencies claimed different jurisdictions whenever a problem arose. For instance, in the issue of low-cost housing, rubbish dumping, non-conducive environment and so on, local stakeholders in Selayang face bureaucratic hindrance – agencies tend to push the responsibility to another department on the basis that the issue is beyond their jurisdiction.

### **5.2.3 Lack of enforcement**

The problems raised are basically well-known issues among the local community. Unfortunately, the lack of enforcement is among the reasons they have not been resolved.

On the issue of illegal immigrants, Covid-19 might have pushed the authorities to take firmer action. The Selayang wholesale market was affected badly by the pandemic to the extent that an EMCO was declared for the area. This means that those living within the EMCO area were compelled to perform a swab test. This is where the issue of immigrants started to catch the attention of the authorities as the issue was no longer a local one but national focus. Firmer actions were taken against law-breakers. This included illegals, foreigners doing business without licence, and so on.

The same happened to the low-cost units where owners are supposed to live there as ownership is based on the income level of the buyers. Unfortunately, a big number of these units were rented to others (which breached the law as explained in Section 5.1.2), especially to foreigners. This is evident through the feedback and from the team undertaking fieldwork in low-cost housing areas. Although this issue is well known among the local community, the authorities failed to act. The two main reasons for it are first, a lack of initiative and effort from the authorities to clamp down such activities. Second is the red tape, legal issue and overlapping jurisdictions.

Non-conducive environment is another issue which the authorities have failed to tackle. Similar to foreigners and low-cost housing, this is another long-standing problem. Although efforts have been made, as explained earlier, it is not enough to clamp down on dumping significantly. Rubbish dumping on a big scale is still taking place. Individuals dumping rubbish in their own housing areas remain rampant. The JMBs are unable to deal with it on their own because of failure of unit owners to pay maintenance fees. At the end of the day, the issue of rubbish dumping and management remains for Selayang.

### **5.3 Observations of solution projects**

For Selayang, more than 10 projects were carried out. A few solutions will be discussed in detail below.

Generally, these projects were carried out by local stakeholders with civil society groups taking the lead. Most of the projects involved the Association of Social Service and Community Development of Gombak, Selangor (also known as Pertubuhan Khidmat Sosial dan Pembangunan Komuniti Daerah Gombak, Selangor, PSPK). From observations, apart from leading the project, PSPK did a good job in filling the gap between academics and locals. PSPK understood the local sentiments better compared to the research team. One of the most obvious observations is that most of the solution projects are gender segregated. This is something neglected by the research team as mixing sexes in a project was not an issue for the research team. However, local sentiment favoured segregation and mixture could bring about unforeseen issues as experienced before this.

#### **5.3.1 Basic Malay classes for refugees**

The foreign community faces difficulties integrating into the local community. They faced rejection from the local community and one of the problems is the language barrier. Teaching them basic spoken Malay allows them to communicate with locals.

Learning Malay alone will not eradicate the stereotype towards immigrants. But this effort can at least help them to communicate and allow them to integrate better. I would consider this project as successful and I do believe that this is sustainable. This is because language is a daily practice. So long as they continue to try to speak Malay, their language skills will improve. Furthermore, with the networking between the refugee community and PSPK in which Malay is the lingua franca, they have a platform to practise the language.

### **5.3.2 Residents' rights and responsibilities**

As discussed, residents in low-cost housing may not be aware of their rights and responsibilities. A capacity building workshop was organised, targeting residents and leaders in the low-cost housing. Through the workshop, their rights as residents were explained. This equipped them with better knowledge of dealing with government agencies or other parties. Through the workshop, they learnt the dos and don'ts. The workshop also expounded on the responsibilities as a resident in a strata unit. Among the problems faced by respective JMBs is the reluctance of residents to pay their maintenance fees. It may not be legal for foreigners to live in low-cost units, but since they already do, the workshop was meant to foster harmony between locals and foreigners in the housing areas. A single solution project may not eradicate the stereotype towards foreigners, but this can be seen as a start.

During the workshop, the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was introduced to the participants. This is highly relatable to them as they are among the focus community for the realisation of SDG in Malaysia, specifically in Selayang. Although this concept may sound academic and new to them, the workshop tried to explain the concept in a simpler way. The participants can in turn share the messages and ideas with their community and surroundings. This workshop has potential to be deployed elsewhere. Generally, this capacity building is considered as successful.

### **5.3.3 More conducive environment**

The team launched two projects that dealt directly with the issue of providing a conducive environment. The first was to improve the physical facilities for the Taman Selayang Makmur flats. Two facilities were built there. One was a shed and the second a waiting area with seats and shade. These facilities are expected to create a more comfortable and safer environment for residents in the area, especially the elderly and children. This project is sustainable as the management of Taman Selayang Makmur will monitor the cleanliness and hygiene of the facilities. These physical facilities can last as long as they are cared for. This project was a success and sustainable.

The second project concerned waste management. This project was executed in the Taman Selayang Makmur flats. For this project, it combines both physical facilities and maintenance with relevant parties. For physical facilities, brick walls for the leach bin storage area were built, leach bin storage installed, potholes repaired and walls repainted. These facilities complemented with continuous maintenance by the relevant parties. For example, on the issue of rubbish collection, the Taman Selayang Makmur management negotiated with local agencies regarding the

rubbish collection routine to match the residents' needs. At the same time, the flat management will continue to monitor the cleanliness and management after the installation of such facilities. Residents were also reminded of their responsibility in maintaining the facilities.

Generally, the physical facilities were successful while their sustainability looks promising.

### **5.3.4 Training programmes**

In long run, nurturing talents and skills is important to bring the community to greater heights. The research team realised the importance of this and conducted various training programmes for the Selayang community. Among them were digital marketing, cake-making with a focus on the bakery sector, micro entrepreneur social enterprise, air-conditioning training, skills fair exhibition, and so on. The participants included at-risk communities and youth. The workshops were to equip them with skills to make a living and also encourage them to stay away from social ills.

As these workshops were mostly skills-based, they are meant to allow participants to generate an income. This can help them to achieve SDGs and to assist individuals and their families climb out of poverty. The output of the project is sustainable and in general, this solution project focusing on the development of skills and nurturing of talents was successful.

## **5.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion**

This APPGM-SDG project as a whole definitely could not solve all the problems within such a short span. However, through the APPGM-SDG project grant, the long-term problems faced by the Selayang parliamentary constituency could be reduced. With the high commitment from the local stakeholders, including its MP, YB William Leong's office, civil society, especially PSPK led by pastor Henry Sandanam and the team, community leaders and other contributors, the projects were carried out successfully. These projects are expected to solve short-term and long-term problems.

The local stakeholders are expected to take over these projects and sustain them. With their commitment, this APPGM-SDG project can be considered a success.

- 1 Department of Statistics Malaysia. (2020). [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/uploads/files/6\\_Newsletter/Newsletter%202020/DOSM\\_BPTMS\\_2-2020\\_Siri\\_39.pdf](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/uploads/files/6_Newsletter/Newsletter%202020/DOSM_BPTMS_2-2020_Siri_39.pdf)
- 2 Low, S. K., Kok, J. K. & Lee., W. Y. (2014). Perceived discrimination and psychological distress of Myanmar refugees in Malaysia. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanity*, 4(3): 201–205.
- 3 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee. (2020). Figures at a glance in Malaysia. <https://www.unhcr.org/en-my/figures-at-a-glance-in-malaysia.html#:~:text=As%20of%20end%20October%202020,or%20fleeing%20persecution%20in%20Myanmar>
- 4 Department of Statistic Malaysia. (2019). [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php/index.php?r=column/ctheoneByCat&cat=455&bul\\_id=MEs4QzNxWkNZZDEyM08yM0Jsd05vQT09&menu\\_id=U3VPMldoYUxzVzFaYmNkWXZteGduZz09](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php/index.php?r=column/ctheoneByCat&cat=455&bul_id=MEs4QzNxWkNZZDEyM08yM0Jsd05vQT09&menu_id=U3VPMldoYUxzVzFaYmNkWXZteGduZz09)
- 5 Low, Kok, & Lee. (2014). Perceived discrimination and psychological distress of Myanmar refugees in Malaysia.
- 6 Fiske, S. T. (2018). How can universal stereotypes be immoral? In K. Gray & J. Graham (Eds.), *Atlas of moral psychology*. Guilford.
- 7 Karim, K. N. (2020, April 20). 'EMCO will curb illegal foreign traders' activities at Selayang market'. New Straits Times. <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/04/586025/emco-will-curb-illegal-foreign-traders-activities-selayang-market>
- 8 Bernama. (2020). 113 illegal immigrants held in Selayang Baru now under EMCO. [https://www.bernama.com/en/general/news\\_covid-19.php?id=1842080](https://www.bernama.com/en/general/news_covid-19.php?id=1842080)
- 9 Bernama. (2020). DBKL to install more than 100 CCTVs near Selayang wholesale market. New Straits Times. <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/11/643616/dbkl-install-more-100-cctvs-near-selayang-wholesale-market>
- 10 Portal Data Terbuka Malaysia. (2021). [https://www.data.gov.my/data/ms\\_MY/dataset/prestasi-kewangan-pbt-selangor/resource/4487cfbe-cd34-45d4-9d26-ed423e8c52aa](https://www.data.gov.my/data/ms_MY/dataset/prestasi-kewangan-pbt-selangor/resource/4487cfbe-cd34-45d4-9d26-ed423e8c52aa)
- 11 Laporan tinjauan: Kajian rancangan struktur negeri Selangor 2035: B5 perumahan. [http://www.jpbdselangor.gov.my/Laporan/RSN\\_Selangor/laporan-tinjauan/B5.0\\_Perumahan.pdf](http://www.jpbdselangor.gov.my/Laporan/RSN_Selangor/laporan-tinjauan/B5.0_Perumahan.pdf)
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 Shamsuddin, M. A. (2019, April 2). Kemudahan PPR, rumah kos rendah dibatal jika kediaman disewakan. Berita Harian. <https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2019/04/548152/kemudahan-ppr-rumah-kos-rendah-dibatal-jika-kediaman-disewakan>
- 14 Fathil, S. (2019, March 21). Tindakan terhadap pemilik sewakan Rumah Selangorku. Selangorkini. <https://selangorkini.my/2019/03/tindakan-terhadap-pemilik-sewakan-rumah-selangorku/>
- 15 Michael, S. S. (2009, August 6). Residents urged to pay maintenance fees to get strata titles. The Star. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/community/2009/08/06/residents-urged-to-pay-maintenance-fees-to-get-strata-titles>
- 16 Majlis Perbandaran Selayang. (2021). Perkhidmatan pembersihan. <https://www.mps.gov.my/ms/perkhidmatan-pembersihan>
- 17 Majlis Perbandaran Selayang. (2021). Pemakluman berkenaan kutipan sisa pepejal di Kawasan Majlis Perbandaran Selayang. <https://mps.gov.my/ms/mps/pusat-media/pengumuman/pemakluman-berkenaan-kutipan-sisa-pepejal-di-kawasan-majlis-perbandaran>
- 18 Jaafar, N. (2020, June 1). Panik nampak penguat kuasa, lori dipandu terbabas. Sinar Harian. <https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/85860/EDISI/Selangor-KL/Panik-nampak-penguat-kuasa-lori-dipandu-terbabas>
- 19 Noor, H. H. M. (2020, 29 September). Mana mau lari? Kejar 'pengotor' sampai ke rumah. Harian Metro. <https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2020/09/625629/mana-mau-lari-kejar-pengotor-sampai-ke-rumah>
- 20 Thomas, J. (2020, March 4). Penghuni rumah amal OKU hidu bau sampah dibuang peniaga haram Selayang. Free Malaysia Today. <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/bahasa/2020/03/04/penghuni-rumah-amal-oku-hidu-bau-sampah-dibuang-peniaga-haram-selayang/>

# 06

## Situational analysis: **Petaling Jaya (P.105), Selangor**



By Calvin Cheng,  
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

## 6.1 Validation of findings

### 6.1.1 Economic and socio-economic issues in affordable housing (PPR and low-income housing)

From field visits and key stakeholder engagement conducted in various low-income housing areas and schools around Petaling Jaya, among the main issues are housing/population density and its impact on access to infrastructure and services for communities. The overcapacity in these lower-income areas combined with inadequate provision of basic infrastructure and amenities has led to non-sustainable density – in turn causing other issues like cleanliness, social issues and slumification. Field visits to sites like Projek Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) Lembah Subang 1 and Taman Desaria indicated that amenities like waste management and sanitation were lacking along with other infrastructure, such as adequate parking, roads and recreational spaces for children.

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) data indicates that the Petaling district (which includes Petaling Jaya) has the highest population of any district in Selangor, with a population density nearly three times as high as Hulu Langat – the second-densest district (Table 6.1). Similarly, data from the Selangor Department of City Planning (JPHD Selangor) shows that housing density in Petaling district is far higher than other districts in the state.<sup>1</sup> Again, housing density in the Petaling district was nearly three times that (units per 100 ha) of the second-densest district of Hulu Langat (Table 6.2).

Yet, true estimates of density for Petaling Jaya are likely higher than the Petaling district average, due to the large population share and density of the constituency. Some estimates suggest that Petaling Jaya contains about 29% of the total population (619,925) in Petaling district.<sup>2</sup> Likewise, in selected areas in Petaling district, such as Section 17, the population density has been estimated at 9,884 per km<sup>2</sup> (more than twice the Petaling district average) and housing density estimated at 2,350 units per km<sup>2</sup> (about double the district average).<sup>3</sup>

This population and housing density is still serviceable in most middle-income to affluent areas in Petaling Jaya with sufficient access to basic amenities, infrastructure and services. However, in pockets of low-income areas like in numerous PPRs and other housing like Taman Desaria, there was a sense that the density was not met with commensurable access to quality infrastructure – with basic services like sanitation and waste management and amenities like green spaces largely inadequate. There was also evidence that residents in these PPRs and low-income housing areas experienced some degree of multidimensional poverty and/or deprivation. While the overall poverty rate in Petaling district is low compared with poorer districts like Hulu Selangor, there are pockets of poverty that go beyond district-level averages. This shows the inequality between these isolated

pockets of low-income residents and many other middle-income areas in Petaling Jaya. Indeed, according to Gini coefficients from DOSM, the Petaling district is the most economically unequal district within Selangor in 2018 (Chart 6.1).<sup>4</sup>

**Table 6.1.** Population by district, 2018

District	Population ('000)	Population density (per km <sup>2</sup> )	Living quarters ('000)
<b>Petaling</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>4,429</b>	<b>664.2</b>
Hulu Langat	1,370	1,645	385.3
Klang	1,025	1,623	286.7
Gombak	815	1,249	237.3
Selang	256	466	82.9
Kuala Langat	270	316	70.2
Kuala Selangor	251	212	70.1
Hulu Selangor	237	136	104.1
Sabak Bernam	126	126	30.7

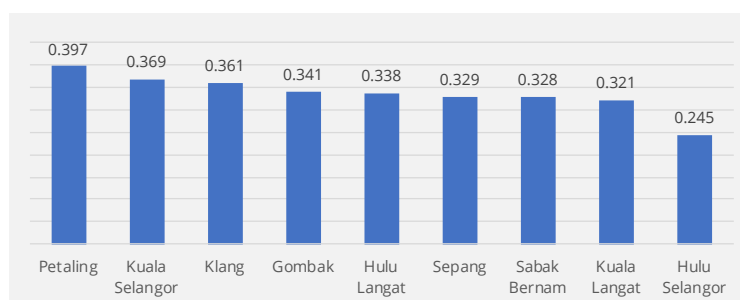
Source: DOSM

**Table 6.2.** Housing density (units/km<sup>2</sup>) by district, 2010

District	2000	2010	% Change
<b>Petaling</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>71%</b>
Hulu Langat	274	388	42%
Klang	237	370	56%
Gombak	212	316	49%
Selang	41	104	154%
Kuala Langat	46	69	50%
Kuala Selangor	28	48	71%
Hulu Selangor	23	47	104%
Sabak Bernam	25	36	44%

Source: Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa Negeri Selangor

**Chart 6.1.** Gini coefficient, by district (2018)



Source: DOSM



## 6.1.2 Social and educational issues

The issues with density, inadequate infrastructure and deprivation above extended to schools in low-income areas in Petaling Jaya. During field visits, issues surrounding insufficient funding for infrastructure relative to a large pupil population in some cases led to overcrowding, deteriorating infrastructure, a lack of sports/recreational facilities and overcapacity related to special needs educational facilities. This, combined with socio-economic issues like poverty, in turn, led to other social and educational issues like drug use and truancy.

This is supported by statistics on pupil-teacher ratios in Selangor and in Petaling district. According to DOSM statistics, the Petaling district has the second highest pupil-teacher ratio (public primary and secondary schools) in Selangor, after Klang. Like with population and housing density, this ratio is likely higher in Petaling Jaya, particularly for schools in lower-income areas with insufficient funding and infrastructure. Other data on school funding and quality of school infrastructure in lower-income areas were not available, though past research suggested that there exists a strong link between schooling expenditure and availability of schooling facilities to pupil performance and poverty.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 6.3.** Pupil-teacher ratio by district, 2018

District	Student-teacher ratio
Klang	15.4
<b>Petaling total*</b>	<b>15.3</b>
Hulu Langat	15.2
Gombak	14.5
Selangor	13.8
Kuala Langat	13.4
Hulu Selangor	12.9
Kuala Selangor	12.4
Sabak Bernam	9.8

Source: DOSM, Author's estimates

\*includes Petaling Perdana and Petaling Utama

### 6.1.3 Institutions and governance issues

Stakeholder engagement and site interviews highlighted two interrelated issues related to governance/institutions in the Petaling Jaya constituency. The first concerned the delivery of social welfare services. On this, there were complains of a lack of follow-up after applications were made for aid and inadequate staffing/capacity in general. The second related to housing institutional governance issues, particularly overlaps in authority, ownership and responsibility of some PPRs and low-income housing. These issues created barriers for effective administration of these housing areas, in some cases precluding the formation of resident bodies.

On the first issue, DOSM statistics on persons with disabilities and registered poor households (groups who are major recipients of social welfare), Petaling district – owing to its high population density – has the highest combined number of people with disabilities and registered poor heads of households (Table 6.4). This large number of potential welfare applicants, combined with the generally low social worker-population ratio in Malaysia of about one social worker to 8,576 people,<sup>6</sup> would lead to the identified challenges with social welfare service delivery.

On the second issue, quantitative validation of the numerous governance-related issues was challenging, due to the lack of granular data on public housing projects. Nonetheless, issues like the fragmented nature of project governance in PPRs and issues with federal-state-local government administration have been documented before.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 6.4.** Welfare recipients by district, 2018

	Newly registered persons with disabilities	Registered poor heads of households
Petaling	2,426	1,210
Klang	1,389	1,213
Kuala Selangor	440	1,783
Sabak Bernam	243	1,861
Gombak	1,034	1,041
Hulu Langat	1,350	632
Hulu Selangor	428	869
Kuala Langat	442	516
Selangor	242	349

Source: DOSM, Department of Social Welfare

## **6.2 Assessment of delivery issues**

### **6.2.1 Lack of inter-governmental and inter-agency coordination and cooperation**

Throughout the stakeholder engagement process, it became clear that there was a lack of inter-governmental and inter-agency coordination. There were conflicts between government agencies and between layers of government (federal/state/local councils). Stakeholders reported that this issue was exacerbated by party affiliations – particularly in constituencies and areas where the local/state governments were from different political coalitions.

There were also conflicts in jurisdiction and policy, specifically in the case of administration of PPRs. For instance, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) has legal authority through the Local Government Act 1976 to monitor and review the jurisdiction of local authorities (PBTs) under other acts. It also has the power to convene and coordinate with PBTs. However, KPKT is required to work with state and local government actors for urban development and planning, especially for low-income housing since land falls under state jurisdiction. As such, state and local governments have important roles to play and conflicts may arise.

Similarly, stakeholder interviews suggested that this overlap in jurisdiction and fragmented administration of PPRs meant that local communities often do not know who is responsible for what and/or which authority to report issues to. This led to less community and civic trust within communities.

### **6.2.2 Poor urban development and planning**

Stakeholders reported that the urban development process failed to take into consideration the voices of local communities and residents, both in terms of housing development and infrastructure development. This led to development issues and negative externalities in the surrounding communities, along with a lack of access to public infrastructure in certain low-income communities, such as public transport.

Throughout the field visits, one major complaint in PPRs and low-income housing communities was that of sanitation and waste management services. Even though the authorities (via KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd) have attempted to make regular rubbish collection, there were still reports and complaints of inadequate waste management. However, engagement with the authorities suggested that behaviour, particularly irresponsible disposal by local residents, were a major problem.

Other important infrastructure and services include access to transport, connectivity and parking. During field visits, there were reports of insufficient parking space, leading to indiscriminate parking around the PPRs, blocking main access roads for sanitation vehicles and other emergency vehicles and causing major congestion. This was partly because of residents' insufficient access to public transport and connectivity (which necessitates owning a vehicle). This also led to a large burden of parking summonses.

For other amenities like recreational spaces, it was reported that every low-cost housing facility and PPR is mandated to have sufficient recreational spaces as playgrounds and green spaces. However, in reality, many of these amenities are in poor condition, unsafe, dirty and not well maintained. This may be due to a lack of funding or political will and may be related to the sanitation and cleanliness issues identified above.

### **6.2.3 Residents' behaviour and strata management**

Field visits to PPRs and low-income housing areas like Taman Desaria suggest that one major problem is the management of local communities and residents. There were problems with the creation and management of management corporations (MCs) or joint management bodies (JMBs) to maintain and upkeep the property, adding to residents' inability to work with the Commissioner of Building (COB) to coordinate building maintenance and improve living spaces.

Stakeholder engagements suggested that this was partly due to a lack of ability and effort on the part of most residents in low-income areas to organise themselves into cohesive groups. Many are unaware or do not have the knowledge, time or ability to do so, while others do not see such efforts as important, particularly in the case of temporary or non-permanent residents in low-income housing areas. There were also reported instances of inter-group conflict between residents that have impeded these efforts. In Taman Desaria, the dissolution of the main developer of the housing project created issues with upkeep and maintenance of the property. Besides strata management issues, field visits and interviews also indicated that many PPR residents lack civic-mindedness and do not feel responsible for the condition and cleanliness of their housing area.

## **6.3 Observations of solution projects**

### **6.3.1 Women economic empowerment programme**

To be completed in the final integrated report (report has not been received).

### 6.3.2 Quality education

During Covid-19, the challenges of ensuring quality education were exacerbated. This was due to a lack of access to high bandwidth broadband inhibiting online access and lack of quality devices for online connectivity, in the form of desktops or laptops or even smart phones. Larger households requiring more than one device for children to participate in online learning were even more affected. Third, the challenges in ensuring participation in online learning in B40 households were manifold, including attendance and effective distance learning outcomes. As an outcome, this could lead to increasing inequality.

To address this challenge, a grant of RM40,000 was awarded to three civil society organisations, led by Yayasan Generasi Gemilang, with the purpose of supporting education programmes for children within PPR Lembah Subang 1, Petaling Jaya from September 2020 till February 2021.

The focus was on ensuring online access through provision of internet data, providing different distance-learning solutions, distribution of school uniforms to children who demonstrated a commitment to learn, and promotion of unity and harmony.

The outcomes demonstrated increased attendance generally (average attendance rate per pupil was 84%). This resulted in 222 children receiving access to education during the movement-control order period. In terms of learning outcomes, 26% improved at least one reading level. Also, higher empathy levels were achieved towards social cohesion.

While some of the measures are highly subjective, generally, the model demonstrated a few key lessons as a policy experiment. First, the role of grassroots and civil society providing additional support for improving education quality in B40 households provides tremendous help. B40 communities, whether in a time of crisis or even in “normal” times, require support to improve learning outcomes. Models, such as helping to improve literacy and reading outcomes, should be upscaled. Second, internet and digital connectivity has become an equivalent to a utility (i.e. water and electricity) and a basic need. Digital connectivity is essential for both formal and informal education and, therefore, increasing connectivity is a critical development need and policy issue. It is likely to have strong linkages with poverty and inequality. Third, education is a tool for social cohesion. Nonetheless, it requires a process and programme to intentionally facilitate social cohesion and reduce fear towards interracial interactions.

### 6.3.3 Inter-agency dialogue

As highlighted in the report, one of the major issues is the challenge of agencies working in silos. This is particularly so in the PPR and low-income housing areas which require inter-agency cooperation to address their multiple issues.

Towards this end, APPGM-SDG organised a series of dialogues with residents and government agencies with the aim of understanding and addressing the issues identified. Dialogues were held with Lembah Subang 1 and Lembah Subang 2 to identify and prioritise the main issues and challenges in the community. The outcome is outlined in two reports.

Two dialogues between government agencies as well as residents were then held with the aim of finding solutions to address the issues. As many of the issues required inter-agency cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, the platform sought to clarify the status of the issues identified (i.e. resolved, in progress, etc) and the agencies mandated to resolve them.

As an observation, while many of the challenges highlighted are highly complex and complicated to resolve, the sessions provided an important process and avenue for dialogue between residents and government agencies. Some issues required only clarification that they were in progress to be resolved, which was important for the residents to understand. A few issues, such as on upgrading water meters, merely required understanding of who to contact, of which clarification was provided during the dialogue. On more complex issues, the platform allowed for multi-stakeholders to either work towards a joint solution or at least understand the roles and responsibilities of each party. For example, in the case of a lack of parking, while it highlighted the lack of planning in relation to density, the solution of utilising government-owned land for extra parking spaces highlighted the need for residents to work together to ensure vehicles are not abandoned and take up parking spaces.

The dialogue also showcased the importance of MPs and councillors. As an outcome, task forces clustered around key issues were suggested to be co-chaired by the MP and councillor. The task forces will ensure that the solutions have a follow-up rather than be addressed in an ad hoc manner.

## 6.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion

Established as a satellite town, Petaling Jaya is a highly urbanised constituency, with challenges related to its high density and urban development. Despite being considered a highly developed city, district (i.e. Petaling) and constituency overall, inequality within the constituency remains, in particular within housing areas. Many challenges identified here were in PPR and low-income housing.

The policy implication of this challenge is the need to rethink planning of affordable housing schemes and how to resolve existing developments. PPRs were meant to be transient homes but two or three generations are now living there. Moving forward, many questions on the design and model for affordable housing in Malaysia must be debated and analysed further. This includes whether an ownership or part-ownership model would be more suitable and provide a higher level of responsibility in the maintenance of these flats.

Specifically, the policy recommendations are to:

- review the planning model of affordable housing schemes in Malaysia, including PPRs and low-income housing, to address issues of density, affordability, ownership model and other relevant issues;
- review the planning of high-density flats from a long-term perspective, including on green public spaces and accessibility to facilities (i.e. parking, transportation, waste, etc);
- set up task forces (proposed to be co-chaired by the MP and councillor) consisting of MPs, government agencies and local leaders (i.e. resident assistant, kawasan rukun tetangga, etc) as a platform to identify issues and find joint solutions;
- review the management model of existing PPRs and low-cost housing.

The major outcome of these challenges is the lack of social mobility. Although residents in Petaling Jaya are situated in a relatively wealthy part of the country, high inequality persists and social mobility across income classes remains low. Addressing the challenges related to affordable housing is directly related to SDG 11 (cities and communities) but interlinks with other goals such as on poverty (SDG1), inequality (SDG10) and governance (SDG16).

---

1 Jabatan Perancangan Bandar Dan Desa Negeri Selangor

2 Citypopulation.de

3 Seo, R. J., Zaki, S. A., & Yun, K. C. (2011). Contextual modernization; New town planning in Petaling Jaya, of Malaysia. *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering*, 10(1), 93–100. DOI: 10.3130/jaabe.10.93

4 Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2018. *My Local Stats Selangor*.

5 Hassan, O. R., & Rasiah, R. (2011). Poverty and student performance in Malaysia. *International Journal of Institutions and Economics*, 3(1), 61–76. <http://ijie.um.edu.my/RePEc/umk/journal/v3i1/Fulltext3.pdf>

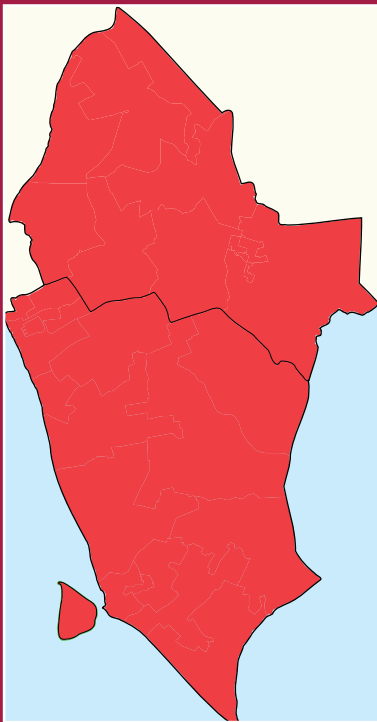
6 Bemama. (2019, October 9). *Shortage of social workers among social problem challenges – Wan Azizah*. Malaysiakini. <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/495037>

7 Jaapar, A., Latiff, A. M. A., & Isa, C. M. M. (2020). Project governance practices in urban public housing projects: A case study of public housing in Malaysia. *Construction Economics and Building*, 20(4), 120–136. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5130/AJCEB.V20i4.7166>; and Bahardin, T. M. I., Alias, Z., & Abdullah, M. (2019). A systematic review of the issues affecting local government in Malaysia. *Journal of Advanced Research in Business and Management Studies*, 15(issue 1), 33–40. [https://www.akademiabaru.com/doc/ARBMSV15\\_N1\\_P33\\_40.pdf](https://www.akademiabaru.com/doc/ARBMSV15_N1_P33_40.pdf)

# 07

---

## Situational analysis: **Tanjung Piai (P.165), Johor**



By Asst Prof Dr Irina Safitri Zen,  
Sejahtera Centre for Sustainability & Humanity,  
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)



## 7.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings

### 7.1.1 Unsustainable livelihood of water settlements

The unsustainable livelihood of water settlements in Kg Air Masin and Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng, Kukup, relates to a massive rubbish problem in the area. The contributors to the problems are: villagers' and tourists' habits in Kg Air Masin, and marine debris and waste trapped in the settlement located in the intertidal zone "mangrove area". The three create a challenge for waste collectors in these two areas.<sup>1</sup>

Kg Air Masin, which is also known as Kg Kukup Laut, is a 160-year-old fishing village in the Pontian district of Johor, which was started by immigrants from China.<sup>2</sup> This settlement currently consists of about 120 units with 80 households and 700 inhabitants.<sup>3</sup> This area, also known for its rustic charm as a fishing village with a unique concrete structure, has been turned into a homestay.<sup>4</sup> It is famous for angling tourism, fishing-related activities and seafood, which attract tourists from Singapore and West Sumatra, Indonesia.<sup>5</sup> Waste trapped in the stilts of the houses create an unhygienic and unpleasant situation for tourists.<sup>6</sup> The houses are built on concrete piles using mangrove and cement and the entire village is linked by wooden or cement pathways.<sup>7</sup>

Kg Air Masin is opposite Pulau Kukup, which was gazetted as a national park under the Johor National Park Corporation Enactment 1989 and Ramsar site as Wetland of International Importance in 2003.<sup>8</sup> The primary ecosystems present in both areas are mangroves and intertidal mudflats, supporting significant fisheries, aquaculture and tourism. The mudflats are rich in shellfish and provide food and income to locals. As an environmental flood control, Pulau Kukup provides physical protection (e.g. as a windbreaker) and shoreline stabilisation as it shelters the mainland Kukup town from storms and waves generated along the Strait of Malacca. The coastal channel between Pulau Kukup and the mainland is a thriving industry for marine cage aquaculture.<sup>9</sup> The area is famous for its floating net cages, which are commonly practised in Malaysia.

"Trash was a problem for homestay operators in the area," according to Amir Yusof, Chanel News Asia (2019). Several factors contribute to the massive rubbish problem in the two villages in Kukup opposite Pulau Kukup adjacent to the Strait of Malacca. First, the ocean debris occur because Kukup is near one of the main shipping lanes in the Strait of Malacca.<sup>10</sup> Sea activities contribute to the ocean debris intentionally or unintentionally. Second, Kg Air Masin folk conduct fish farming activities with heavy traffic at the waterway.<sup>11</sup> Human activities, by-products from fish farm boathouses and fishing boats contribute indirectly to the debris that end up at Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng. Third, commercial activities like fish processing in Kg Air Masin add to the problem.

The massive rubbish problem in this area affects the physical environment of the two villages located at the intertidal zone of the mangrove ecosystem (Figure 7.1). This zone traps marine debris in the stilts and mangrove roots during low tide.<sup>12</sup>

**Figure 7.1.** Intertidal zone

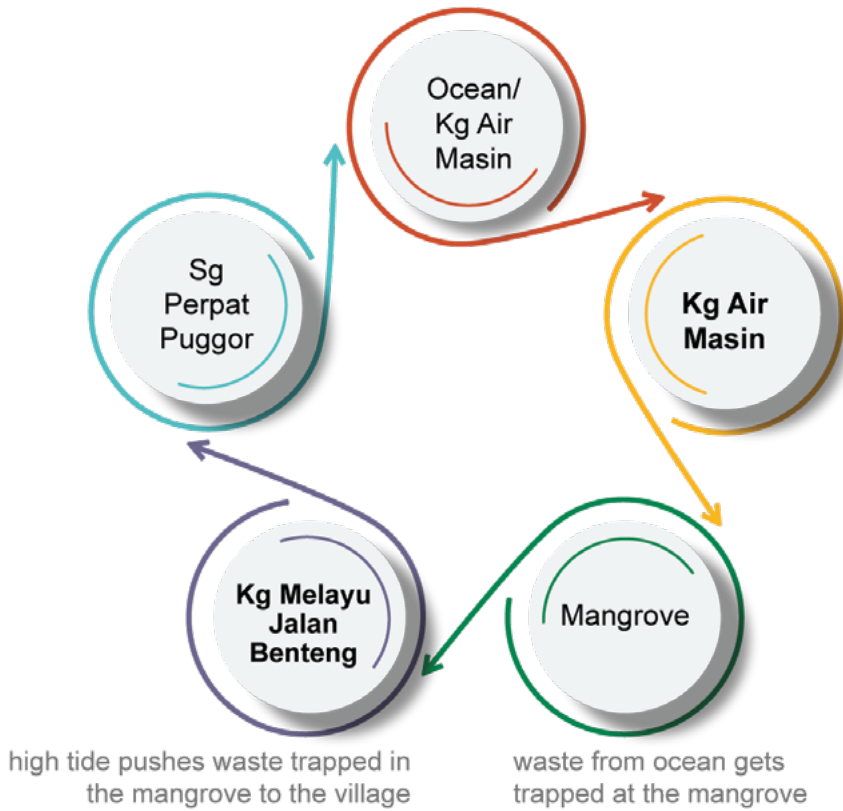


Contradicting with Kg Air Masin, where the houses built for homestay tourists are mainly concrete, those in Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng are single-storey houses built mainly from wood. The settlement that is closest to the land is surrounded by rubbish because of uncollected waste and waste deposited from the ocean.

Water flow stagnates at Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng. Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng has 42 houses which are identified as "Lot (number)". Lot 1 starts from the entrance to the village and Lot 42 starts at the end of the road nearest to the river. High tide pushes the waste towards this location, where it ends up trapped underneath the houses. (ImpactLution Final Report 2021).

For Kg Air Masin, during our first visit, we discovered that the recycling buy back centre (BBC) not functioning. This local effort tries to sort out recyclables, such as plastics, aluminium cans and paper, which have some value. It is in line with the national campaign for recycling with a 22% overall recycling rate and 40% waste diversion target from landfills by 2020.<sup>13</sup> Later on, the project solution confirmed that the recyclables fetched less money and fewer items meant that this initiative was difficult to sustain.

**Figure 7.2.** The cyclical waste flow at Kukup settlement



The validation process on marine debris is depicted in Figure 7.2. Waste from the ocean and river moves towards the mangrove and gets trapped and deposited until the next high tide. It then pushes the waste back to Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng. This waste stays there until the rainy season when high tide occurs. A certain amount of waste is pushed into Sg Perpat Puggor and flows back into the sea but most remain trapped in the mangrove trees' roots. Pulau Kukup faces the same problem of marine debris or waste from the two settlements opposite the island.<sup>14</sup>

The team verified the programme, visited the site for observations and analysis to evaluate the rate of waste flow, condition of waste in areas after clean-ups, high- and low-tide effects on marine debris. This is also to get community feedback and input on solutions and existing problems.

### 7.1.2 The non-assessment payer

Households in Kg Air Masin do enjoy waste collection services as noted by our project solution. However, solid waste generated from homestays as a commercial entity is managed under the Garbage Throwing and Disposal By-Laws, 1986.<sup>15</sup> This service is categorised as a paid service based on load capacity, which should be borne by the commercial operator. The operators can contact the contractor to conduct disposal works using lorries to the disposal site based on the prescribed standards or appointing any solid waste disposal contractor registered under Pontian district. The waste contractor is aware of the massive rubbish problem in Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng and uncollected waste in Kg Air Masin. The premises are required to dispose of the solid waste through these methods as a condition for approval of their business licences.<sup>16</sup>

During the stakeholder consultation, the Majlis Daerah Pontian representative said it could not provide waste collection services and facilities, such as bins, for households in Jalan Benteng which do not pay their assessment rates. The poorer households in Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng cannot afford the annual assessment. Hence, they do not receive household bins. However, a communal container for waste disposal is available. The lack of bins at the household level contributes to the rubbish problem.<sup>17</sup>

Households in Jalan Benteng claimed that waste deposits from the sea trapped in the mangrove roots contribute to the massive rubbish problem in their area. It is also difficult to clean up the marine debris trapped in the roots. Stakeholder engagement with Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp) confirmed that the waste trapped in mangrove root trees is not under its jurisdiction.

Failure to pay the annual assessment means that households in Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng are denied bins and collection services – which is a major challenge. Many households also dump their waste indiscriminately in the communal bin, adding to the unsanitary living conditions. Life is challenging in the intertidal zone as the houses are surrounded by water, which leads to insects and pest-related diseases, such as dengue, etc. Geospatial analysis proves a correlation between the increasing number of dengue cases and illegal dumpsites in Johor.<sup>18</sup>

Resettlement or relocation of the settlement at Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng may help to solve this complex problem. This settlement is neither healthy nor safe, especially because of the wooden structures of the houses. The mangrove ecosystem is categorised as an environmentally sensitive area, which bars development and inhabitants.<sup>19</sup>

## 7.2 Assessment of delivery issues

The massive rubbish problem in Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng relates to their legal status. They are classified as squatters.<sup>20</sup> Discussions with government agencies, such as Majlis Daerah Pontian, and the welfare agencies point to the status of Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng. "If the settlement is considered a squatter area, they are not eligible to receive any service according to the law," they pointed out. The state of Johor carries the highest number of squatter families compared with other states in the peninsula at 6,363 families.<sup>21</sup>

"Squatters have been defined under the National Land Code 1965 (Section 425) to include any human occupation of land without the approval of the local authorities. Under the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance no. 1 of 1969, another subsidiary regulation was established to govern the squatters. The Essential (Clearance of Squatters) Regulations 1969 interpret that any erection of house, hut, shed, shelter, roofed enclosure or any extension of premises and buildings without approval of the local authorities can also be considered as a squatter's hut".

Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng does not have waste collection services nor rubbish bins at the household level. However, the community has to dispose of their waste into the public waste bins provided by the district office and SWCorp located outside the village's perimeter.

Wastes trapped in the mangrove area intertidal zone are not collected by the SWM. According to the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 (Act 672), marine debris is not included in the solid waste definition under the act. Hence, it is difficult to identify the agency that is responsible for the ocean debris and general waste at the mangrove site. The jurisdiction and services of SWCorp and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) are limited to household and industrial waste as sanctioned by either the local council or the district office. However, solid waste from homestays is identified as a commercial by-product. One solution is to define it under the Garbage Throwing and Disposal By-Laws, 1986. Under this by-law, the homestay operator should pay for services based on load capacity by appointing any solid waste disposal contractor registered under the council. However, more engagement and socialisation are needed for the enforcement of this by-law.

The dialogue with villagers on this problem found that the poorer households could not afford the annual assessment, thereby they were denied waste collection services.

Waste management in the Tg Piai area is the responsibility of SWCorp, Majlis Daerah Pontian and Southern Waste Management Sdn Bhd as the waste contractor company.<sup>22</sup> Majlis Daerah Pontian explained that communal bins and waste collection services are provided in the area even for those who cannot afford the assessment rate. The site visit was to verify the programme, observe and analyse the rate of waste flow, waste in areas after clean-ups, and high and low tide effects on marine debris. The visit was also to obtain community feedback and input on solutions to the existing problems.

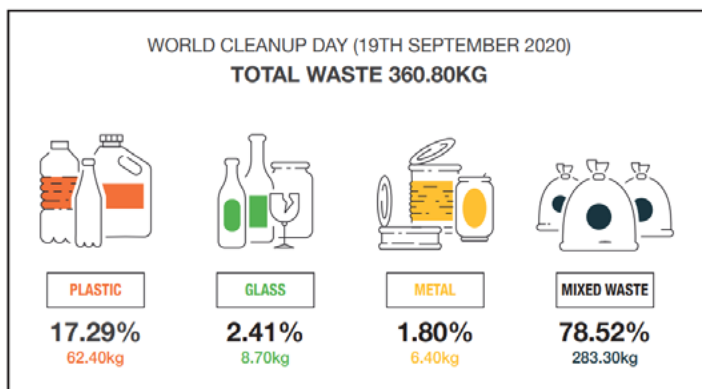
Due to inconvenience, it requires a high level of awareness to carry waste into the communal bins. The public or communal bin is the lowest ranking of convenience in terms of waste management.<sup>23</sup> The household bin with weekly door-to-door collection service ranks as the highest level of convenience.

### 7.3 Observations of solution projects

The project solution to increase awareness of the villagers was challenging because of the second movement-control order (MCO 2.0) in June 2021. The programme introduced eco bricks to the villagers to increase their appreciation for recyclables as a valuable resource that can be turned into a product. The programme aims to improve the villagers' quality of life and livelihood by implementing waste management systems and solutions and adopting "waste to wealth" programmes to encourage recycling, reuse and waste recovery. The villagers were also taught how to sort out recyclables and to monetise them under the "plastic buy back programme".

In general, the solution project provided knowledge on the waste profile for the two areas. On World Clean-up Day, 19 September 2020, at Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng, 73 volunteers helped to collect rubbish. About 361kg of solid waste was collected. The categorisation analysis identified 283.30kg (78.52%) as general waste, 62.40kg (17.30%) plastic waste, 8.7kg (2.41%) glass and 6.4kg (1.77%) metal. From that amount, only about 21.5% were recyclables. The remaining 78.52% of general waste needed to be sent to landfills and not categorised under the BBC. Hence, BBC could not be implemented in this area. The result from the waste profile provides information on the proper action to solve the problems in this area.

**Figure 7.3.** Waste profile from World Clean-up Day 2020, Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng, Kukup



For the marine debris trapped in the intertidal zone of villagers' houses and mangrove trees, the project solution monitored the waste flow. From the observations, a minor waste source was identified in Zone 3 and 5, while the primary waste source was in Zone 1, 2 and 4. Minor waste source zones are determined based on the audited data, community activities and villagers' waste management practices.

**Figure 7.4.** Waste source zonation at project solution area, Kg Air Masin and Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng, Kukup



Observations in Zone 3, Kg Air Masin found several rubbish bins provided by households and homestay owners. However, there were still rubbish scattered around the bins. When the rubbish bags are out, wind and animals rummaging for food rip them open, causing waste to fall into the water. During high tide, the wave pushes the waste into Zone 4 before ending in Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng. This never-ending cycle deposits massive amounts of rubbish in the area. The lack of waste collection services adds to the problem.

Zone 5 Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng, identified as the endpoint of the waste flow during high tide, lacked waste management facilities. Households there were seen doing the following: (i) taking their rubbish out to the public bins within a 2km radius of the village; (ii) burning rubbish in front of their houses; and (iii) discarding waste at the vacant site opposite their houses near the riverbank.

The potential solution is to erect “net barriers” around these two villages to control ocean debris. These barriers will trap and prevent ocean debris from entering the villages. The three-barrier solution is as follows:

- BARRIER 1: placed under the walkways in Kg Air Masin to control ocean debris entry
- BARRIER 2: behind Kg Melayu Jalan Benteng at the edge of the mangrove – it prevents waste from the mangrove and possible waste flow from Kg Air Masin
- BARRIER 3: closes the waste source loop from Sg Air Masin. However, as Sg Air Masin is also the waterway for fishing boats, in-depth study and community engagement is required.

The solution project executors were able to find partners interested to find solutions to the massive rubbish problem in this area. The partners were Circular Economic Club Johor Bahru, Heng Hiap Industry Sdn Bhd, Sustainable Business Network Association Malaysia (SustNET) and Sea Monkey Project.

**Figure 7.5.** Potential barriers to control marine debris for the settlement



The two villages are in Mukim Serkat, Pontian district of Iskandar Malaysia (IM) under South Johor Economic Region (SJER). As the new southern development corridor in Johor, it covers 2,217 sq km and a population of 1.35 million, representing 43% of Johor's population. The area covers the entire district of Johor Bahru and the island within the district, Mukim Jeram Batu, Mukim Sg Karang, Mukim Serkat and Pulau Kukup in Mukim Air Masin.



Iskandar Regional Development Authority (Irda) facilitates the administration in IM. Under the comprehensive development plan (CDP), an integrated solid waste management blueprint for IM was developed.<sup>24</sup> The blueprint aims to provide a strategic framework for integrated solid waste management in IM and establish an advanced, environmentally sound, practical, long-term sustainable solid waste management system for southern Johor. It also provides a platform for the public and private sector and the community to manage solid waste in IM. An anti-litter campaign to educate the public on proper waste disposal was mentioned as one of the awareness campaigns.<sup>25</sup> A key target under Focus 1 of the blueprint is full coverage of waste collection. Reduction of solid waste through 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) is a key target under Focus 2. This initiative is also part of the shoreline management plan for IM.<sup>26</sup>

**Table 7.1.** Key initiatives and targets of the integrated solid waste management blueprint

Focus	Targets
Focus 1: Waste generation and collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% environmentally sound waste collection extended to all areas including kampung, rural and squatter areas</li> <li>• Zero illegal dumping through liscensing, strict enforcement and penalties</li> <li>• Provision of drop-off points for household hazardous wastes and treatment of all household hazardous waste as hazardous waste</li> </ul>
Focus 2: Reduction of solid waste through 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of source separation scheme: household recyclables, commercial/industrial organics and landfill ban (of recyclables and certain organics)</li> <li>• Implementation of household source separation schemes</li> <li>• Provision of approximately 300 drop-off points</li> <li>• Introduction of recycling incentive scheme</li> <li>• Implementation of selected deposit refund or take back systems</li> <li>• Achieving household recycling rate of 30% from source separation scheme</li> </ul>
Focus 3: Waste treatment and disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment of all waste that can be treated by 2025, focusing on long-term pollution prevention, with recovery of by-products and energy</li> <li>• All non-hazardous by products from waste treatment to be utilised and recycled (compost, ash/char, energy/chemicals)</li> <li>• Commercial/industrial organic waste collection and treatment in place by 2020</li> <li>• Not more than 10% of original waste (residues and inerts) to be landfilled by 2025</li> <li>• Eliminate pollution from landfills – existing landfills upgraded and closed; new landfills for residual waste and inerts only</li> </ul>
Focus 4: Public awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All households and businesses to be fully educated by 2020 and working in line with public private partnership (PPP) model to achieve waste avoidance, reduction and recycling</li> <li>• Establish recycling promotion units at each LA</li> <li>• Develop and implement public awareness campaigns and activities by corporation and IRDA</li> <li>• Inclusion of solid waste management in school curriculums</li> </ul>
Focus 5: Strategic facility planning and facility cost recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of site and technology specific considerations for all future waste facilities</li> <li>• Implementation of direct billing system for cost recovery for waste services and facilities</li> </ul>

## 7.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion

The APPGM-SDG project for Tg Piai successfully identified the complex and massive rubbish problem in the area although it was not able to solve it. Despite the physical environment of the area, at the intertidal zone of the mangrove ecosystem, the fishing village contributes to the magnitude of the problem. Solid waste disposal is especially challenging for registered homestay operators, squatters and those who cannot afford the annual assessment tax.

- 1 Yusof, A. (2019). *Grappling with trash and ailing infrastructure, can Kukup bring back the tourists?* Channel News Asia; Yee, X. Y. (2021, April 14). *In-depth study needed to solve rubbish issue in Air Masin, Kukup*. The Star.
- 2 Lai, J. Y., & Cheng, H. H. (2019). Understanding adaptation: Lessons from local adaptive measures to coastal risks and hazards – a case study of Kukup water village, Malaysia. *Journal of Design and Built Environment*, 19(1), 13–23.
- 3 Yee, *In-depth study needed to solve rubbish issue in Air Masin*.
- 4 Ismail, N. A. H., Wee, S. Y., Haron, D. E. M., Kamarulzaman, N. H., & Aris, A. Z. (2020). Occurrence of endocrine disrupting compounds in mariculture sediment of Pulau Kukup, Johor, Malaysia. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 150(3), 110735.
- 5 International Maritime Organization. (2017, April 28). *Identification and protection of special areas and PSSAs – Protection of Pulau Kukup (Kukup Island) and Tanjung Piai (Cape Piai)*. <https://cil.nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/IMO-Doc.-MEPC-71-INF.24-Protection-of-Pulau-Kukup-Kukup-Island-and-Tanjung-Piai-Cape-Piai-Malaysia.pdf>
- 6 Ismail, Wee, Haron, Kamarulzaman, & Aris, Occurrence of endocrine disrupting compounds.
- 7 Ibid.; International Maritime Organization, *Identification and protection of special areas and PSSAs*.
- 8 Hampton, M. P. (2010). Enclaves and ethnic ties: The local impacts of Singaporean crossborder tourism in Malaysia and Indonesia. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 31(2), 239–225.
- 9 Lai, & Cheng, Understanding adaptation.
- 10 International Maritime Organization, *Identification and protection of special areas and PSSAs*; Ismail, Wee, Haron, Kamarulzaman, & Aris, Occurrence of endocrine disrupting compounds.
- 11 Kukuplaut.com. *History of Kukup*. <https://kukuplaut.com/about-kukup/history-of-kukup/#cite-note-1>; Hampton, Enclaves and ethnic ties.
- 12 Yusof, *Grappling with trash and ailing infrastructure*; Yee, *In-depth study needed to solve rubbish issue in Air Masin*.
- 13 Papargyropoulou, E., Padfield, R., Rupani, P. F., & Zakaria, Z. (2014). Towards sustainable resource and waste management in developing countries: The role of commercial and food waste in Malaysia. *International Journal of Waste Resources*, 4(3), 1–6.
- 14 Yusof, *Grappling with trash and ailing infrastructure*; Yee, *In-depth study needed to solve rubbish issue in Air Masin*; International Maritime Organization, *Identification and protection of special areas and PSSAs*.
- 15 Pontian Municipal Council. *By-Laws – Pontian District Council Jurisdiction*. <https://www.mdpontian.gov.my/en/businesses/legislation/bylaws>
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Papargyropoulou, E., Padfield, R., Rupani, P. F., & Zakaria, Z. (2014). Towards sustainable resource and waste management.
- 18 Aminah, S., Zen, I. S., Che'Man, N., Al-Ashwal, R. H., & Shuid, S. (2019). Dengue risk prediction in illegal dumpsite of housing area by using geospatial analysis. *Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management*, 9(1).
- 19 Ministry of Housing and Local Government. (2010, August 13). *National Physical Plan-2*. <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/42390861/national-physical-plan-ministry-of-housing-and-local-government>
- 20 International Maritime Organization, *Identification and protection of special areas and PSSAs*.
- 21 Unit Perancang Ekonomi. (2013). *Laporan Kesejahteraan Rakyat Malaysia 2013*. Jabatan Perdana Menteri. <https://www.epu.gov.my/sites/default/files/2020-03/Laporan%20Kesejahteraan%20Rakyat%20Malaysia%202013.pdf>
- 22 National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management (NSP) 2005; Master Plan on National Waste Minimisation (MWM) 2006; SWCorp Strategic Plan 2014–2020; 3R workshop; pre-lab discussions.
- 23 Tchobanoglous, G., & Kreith, F. (2002). *Handbook of solid waste management* (2nd ed.). McGraw-Hill.
- 24 Zen, I. S., & Siwar, C. (2015). An analysis of household acceptance of curbside recycling scheme in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *Habitat International*, 47, 248–255.
- 25 National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management (NSP) 2005; Master Plan on National Waste Minimisation (MWM) 2006; SWCorp Strategic Plan 2014–2020; 3R workshop; pre-lab discussions.
- 26 Iskandar Regional Development Authority (Irdia); Integrated solid waste management blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia; Shoreline management plan – blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia.

# 08

---

## Analisis situasi: **Papar (P.175), Sabah**



Oleh Prof Dr Murnizam Halik,  
Fakulti Psikologi dan Pendidikan,  
Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)

## 8.1 Pemetaan isu dan pengesahan hasil penyelidikan

### 8.1.1 Perikanan

Berdasarkan statistik Jabatan Perikanan Malaysia, seramai 945 orang nelayan bekerja di atas vesel penangkapan ikan yang berlesen di daerah Papar pada 2019. Daripada jumlah tersebut, seramai 937 orang terdiri daripada Bumiputera dan 8 berbangsa Cina. Statistik bilangan vesel penangkapan ikan yang berlesen di seluruh Sabah pada 2019 boleh dibahagikan kepada tiga iaitu berjentera dalam sebanyak 3,296 vesel, berjentera sangkut (11,142) dan tidak berjentera (3,064).

Berdasarkan statistik pendaratan ikan laut mengikut daerah dan kumpulan peralatan menangkap ikan 2016 daripada Jabatan Perikanan Sabah, terdapat empat jenis kumpulan peralatan yang digunakan di daerah Papar iaitu: (i) pukat hanyut, (ii) pukat tangguk, (iii) pancing yang terbahagi kepada dua iaitu mengail pancing dan pancing ikan kayu, dan (iv) rampaian yang terbahagi kepada dua iaitu binton ketam dan memungut siput. Jumlah pendaratan ikan menggunakan pukat tunda adalah sebanyak 701.83 tan. Peralatan menggunakan pukat tangguk mendaratkan ikan 398.24 tan. Penggunaan alat mengail pancing dan pancing ikan kayu masing-masing mendaratkan ikan sebanyak 283.50 dan 60.50 tan. Kumpulan peralatan rampaian jenis binton ketam dan memungut siput pula masing-masing mendaratkan ikan sebanyak 25.17 dan 165.72 tan.

Maka, jumlah keseluruhan kuantiti pendaratan ikan laut daerah Papar 2016 berjumlah sebanyak 1,634.95 tan dengan nilai borong sebanyak RM11.77 juta. Ini merupakan statistik terkini yang dirujuk daripada Jabatan Perikanan Sabah.

Statistik bilangan nelayan yang bekerja di atas vesel penangkapan ikan yang berlesen mengikut kumpulan peralatan menangkap ikan dan negeri 2019 hanya menunjukkan jumlah dalam negeri sahaja dan tidak dibahagikan kepada daerah-daerah. Berdasarkan statistik tersebut, nelayan di Sabah menggunakan 13 jenis kumpulan peralatan iaitu pukat tunda, pukat jerut ikan, pukat jerut bilis, lain-lain pukat tarik, pukat hanyut, pukat tangguk, belat, bubu, pancing, pukat rentang, memungut siput, binton ketam dan rampaian. Mengikut statistik, nilai perikanan tangkapan Sabah 2019 ialah sebanyak RM1.066 bilion. Jumlah ini merangkumi dua bahagian iaitu bahagian laut pantai yang berjumlah RM1.028 bilion dan bahagian laut dalam yang berjumlah RM38.8 juta.

### 8.1.2 Pertanian dan Pan Borneo

Tujuan utama pelaksanaan projek bantuan subsidi pembajakan sawah padi adalah untuk memberikan bantuan subsidi pembajakan tanah sawah dalam usaha untuk mengekalkan 35,601ha sawah padi, meningkatkan hasil pengeluaran padi dan

membantu kerajaan negeri meningkatkan pengeluaran beras. Projek ini juga bertujuan untuk mengurangkan beban kos pengeluaran para petani yang semakin meningkat.

Pencapaian fizikal kawasan bertanam 2017 ialah seluas 31,274ha, iaitu meningkat sebanyak 11% berbanding dengan keluasan bertanam tahun sebelumnya iaitu 28,154ha. Peningkatan keluasan bertanam yang ketara ialah di daerah Kota Belud (2,288.96ha), Papar (33.93ha), Ranau (592.37ha), Keningau (360.69ha), Sipitang (114.53ha), Putatan (62.42ha), Beaufort (52.42ha) dan Kuala Penyu (6.17ha), manakala penurunan kawasan bertanam di beberapa daerah hanya melibatkan keluasan 692.86ha di daerah Kota Marudu, Pitas, Tambunan, Tenom, Beluran/Telupid, Sook dan Tongod.

Keluasan tanaman padi sawah di bawah pemberian subsidi pembajakan sawah di Papar meningkat daripada 779.50ha pada 2016 kepada 1,113.43ha pada 2017. Pusat pengeluaran benih padi (PPBP) daerah Papar mengeluarkan statistik sasaran pengeluaran benih padi pada 2017 yang menunjukkan sasaran asal adalah sebanyak 480 tan, manakala sasaran yang disemak semula adalah sebanyak 315 tan. Justeru, pencapaian pengeluaran benih padi bagi daerah Papar mencapai 279.94 tan.

Pembinaan lebuh raya Pan Borneo yang merentasi Sabah ke Sarawak sepanjang 5,324km yang mula dijalankan pada 2016 telah mengakibatkan gangguan kepada saliran perparitan sawah padi di daerah Papar. *Culvert* baharu yang dibina tidak dapat menyalurkan air yang mencukupi ke sawah padi dan menjejaskan hampir 81ha sawah. Selain itu, petani juga tidak dapat menuai hasil padi disebabkan jentera untuk menuai padi tidak dapat melalui ke kawasan tersebut. Keadaan ini sedikit sebanyak telah menyumbang kepada penyusutan sektor pertanian di Sabah. Berdasarkan Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia, sektor pertanian di Sabah telah mencatatkan pertumbuhan -0.8% pada 2019, berbanding -0.3% pada 2018. Kejatuhan tersebut dipengaruhi oleh penurunan pengeluaran daripada subsektor tanaman yang menguasai sektor ini dengan sumbangan sebanyak 75%. Subsektor ini kekal bertumbuh pada kadar marginal 0.2% pada 2019, tetapi dipengaruhi oleh kemerosotan dalam aktiviti kelapa sawit yang menyumbang sebanyak 65.3% kepada keseluruhan sektor pertanian.

### 8.1.3 Kemiskinan

Berdasarkan statistik Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) 2019, tahap kemiskinan bandar di Sabah berjumlah 29,608 orang yang terdiri daripada kategori miskin tegar iaitu sebanyak 4,376, miskin (9,437) dan terkeluar (15,795). Statistik pekerjaan daerah Papar menunjukkan jumlah pengangguran adalah sebanyak 42,000. Jumlah pekerja buruh adalah sebanyak 797,000

manakala jumlah pekerja memakan gaji adalah 754,000. Dari aspek pendidikan pula, terdapat 62 buah sekolah kerajaan yang terdiri daripada 51 sekolah rendah dan 11 sekolah menengah di Papar. Murid-murid dari kawasan pedalaman Papar lazimnya akan tinggal di asrama apabila berpindah ke sekolah menengah yang berdekatan. Hal ini disebabkan oleh faktor pengangkutan dan ketiadaan sekolah rendah di sekitar tempat tinggal mereka. Selain itu, berdasarkan statistik Kementerian Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (KKMM) 2019, hanya terdapat sebuah pusat informasi dan enam pusat internet di Papar. Keadaan ini adalah selaras dengan statistik pembangunan di Papar yang mencatatkan tahap pertumbuhan sebanyak 3.9% sahaja.

## 8.2 Penilaian isu ketersampaian

Dari sudut golongan petani, pembangunan infrastruktur telah memberikan impak yang besar kepada aktiviti ekonomi mereka. Pembinaan Pan Borneo dilihat sebagai satu keperluan untuk pengguna jalan raya tetapi telah mengganggu sistem perparitan sawah padi di Papar. Tambahan pula, golongan petani tidak mengetahui tentang saluran untuk membuat aduan dan mengajukan masalah mereka.

Bagi golongan nelayan pula, mereka menghadapi masalah muara cetek yang disebabkan oleh aktiviti lombong pasir yang dijalankan oleh golongan yang tidak bertanggungjawab. Selain itu, nelayan juga dilarang menangkap ikan di kawasan berdekatan disebabkan ianya berhampiran dengan kawasan pelancongan dan tapak perindustrian Petronas.

Kedua-dua golongan tersebut tidak mengetahui tentang saluran dan pihak untuk mengadukan masalah. Mereka merupakan golongan yang diabaikan oleh kerana mereka telah mengajukan isu-isu yang dihadapi kepada pihak tertentu namun masih belum ada sebarang penyelesaian.

Sesi dialog antara golongan petani dan nelayan bersama wakil rakyat Papar Ahmad Hassan yang diadakan adalah bertujuan untuk mengenal pasti pihak yang bertanggungjawab dalam memastikan golongan ini tidak diabaikan.

Jabatan Pertanian dan Jabatan Perikanan telah dikenal pasti sebagai pihak berwajib yang dapat menyalurkan maklumat dan bantuan kepada golongan petani dan nelayan. Maka, pemantauan perlu dilakukan oleh pegawai jabatan tersebut dengan turun padang dan meninjau keadaan golongan ini.

Prosedur pengurusan yang lama, tempat pengurusan yang jauh dari kawasan tempat tinggal dan kebergantungan kepada orang tengah telah menyebabkan golongan nelayan dan petani tidak mendapat maklumat dan bantuan yang sepatutnya.

Penggunaan orang tengah dianggap lebih mudah kerana golongan petani dan nelayan adalah kurang arif dalam pengurusan dan masalah pengangkutan. Namun orang-orang tengah ini telah menyelewengkan maklumat yang mengakibatkan golongan petani dan nelayan tidak mendapat maklumat yang betul berkaitan bantuan yang layak diterima. Situasi ini telah menyebabkan ketidakadilan dalam pengagihan bantuan.

Perbincangan kumpulan fokus menitikberatkan golongan petani dan nelayan kerana mereka kurang mengetahui saluran untuk mengajukan isu-isu yang dihadapi. Topik perbincangan telah menyentuh langkah-langkah yang perlu dilakukan oleh pihak sasaran untuk mendapat bantuan kewangan yang diagihkan oleh pejabat parlimen yang telah diseleweng oleh pihak yang tidak berkenaan.

## **8.3 Pemantauan pelaksanaan projek solusi**

### **8.3.1 Pertanian**

Golongan petani berharap lebih banyak bantuan disediakan seperti bengkel atau program dijalankan oleh pihak berwajib terutamanya yang boleh meningkatkan kemahiran dan memberikan peluang pengajian untuk menjana ekonomi melalui projek-projek pertanian di Papar. Program khusus yang bertemakan tenaga kerja dijangka mampu mengatasi isu perparitan disamping menjana idea baru dalam aktiviti pertanian.

Pegawai Jabatan Pertanian perlu memantau dengan turun padang untuk meninjau keadaan golongan petani dari semasa ke semasa. Manakala, bantuan yang disalurkan harus diterima oleh golongan sasaran secara tepat dan adil.

Terdapat keperluan untuk sebuah program kemahiran khusus untuk golongan belia untuk memperolehi pekerjaan yang bersesuaian dengan kelayakan mereka di dalam sektor awam atau swasta di Papar.

### **8.3.2 Perikanan**

Golongan nelayan berharap lebih banyak bantuan disediakan seperti bengkel atau program oleh pihak berwajib yang memberikan kesedaran kepada golongan belia nelayan untuk menjana kreativiti dan inovasi. Contohnya, ternakan ikan dalam sangkar merupakan satu penambahbaikan dalam menjana ekonomi khususnya semasa pasca pandemik yang mengakibatkan keupayaan dan kewangan yang terhad.

Golongan nelayan juga bercadang supaya mengadakan program kemahiran untuk menjana sumber pendapatan. Kemahiran membuat baja/makanan ikan organik merupakan satu kaedah alternatif dalam mengurangkan kos pembiayaan baja kimia.

Pegawai Jabatan Perikanan perlu sering turun padang untuk meninjau keadaan golongan nelayan. Manakala, bantuan yang disalurkan haruslah diterima oleh golongan sasaran secara tepat dan adil.

Golongan nelayan berharap pegawai akan lebih peka, rajin turun padang untuk menjalankan pemantauan dan menjalankan tugas dengan amanah supaya tiada golongan yang tercicir.

## 8.4 Penutup

Berdasarkan pemerhatian, pihak berwajib harus menjalankan tugas dengan adil dan saksama dalam memastikan kesejahteraan penduduk Papar. Golongan yang terjejas telah berani menyuarkan isu-isu yang dihadapi, namun mereka tidak mengetahui pihak mana yang sepatutnya mendengar isu-isu tersebut. Keadaan ini menyebabkan masalah yang dihadapi berlanjutan sehingga menjejaskan ekonomi dan sosial.

Pegawai-pegawai juga perlu menjalankan tugas dengan amanah dan adil. Bantuan yang disalurkan harus tepat dan sampai kepada golongan sasaran untuk mengelakkan penyelewengan. Pihak berwajib harus mengenal pasti golongan yang tidak bertanggungjawab dalam menyelewengkan dana dan bantuan.

Program-program yang dianjurkan mampu menjana kreativiti belia dan seterusnya meningkatkan produktiviti golongan yang terjejas. Kemahiran khusus untuk golongan belia berupaya memberikan peluang pekerjaan di sektor awam dan swasta di kawasan Papar atau Sabah.

Penambahbaikan infrastruktur seperti Pan Borneo dilihat sebagai satu pembangunan yang positif dalam aspek pengangkutan tetapi memerlukan "pengorbanan" rakyat. Projek pembangunan tersebut telah menjejaskan taraf ekonomi golongan petani dan menyebabkan banyak rumah di kawasan kampung berdekatan terpaksa dirobohkan.

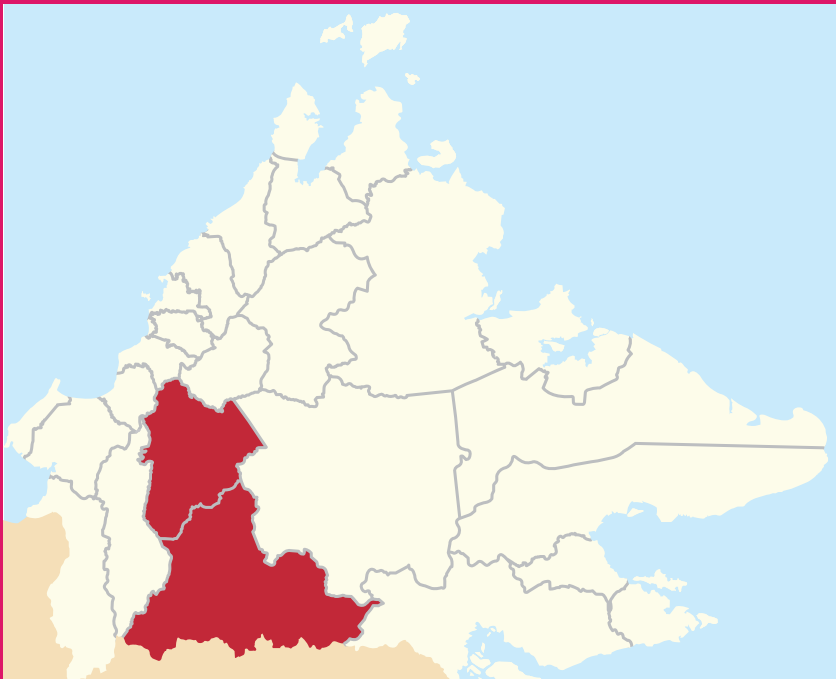
Pasca pandemik Covid-19 telah menyukarkan pihak berwajib untuk menjalankan tugas seperti pemantauan. Ramai penduduk turut terjejas dari sudut ekonomi disebabkan oleh perintah kawalan pergerakan (PKP) yang menghadkan pergerakan penduduk. Justeru, bantuan daripada pihak kerajaan dapat membantu meringankan beban golongan yang terjejas.



# 09

---

## Situational analysis: **Pensiangan (P.182), Sabah**



By Prof Dr Junaenah Sulehan,  
Institute of Borneo Studies,  
University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF)

## 9.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings

### 9.1.1 Rural poverty

Rural poverty is a never-ending concern in Sabah. One of the obvious discourses that led to the identification of rural poverty and the issue of inclusivity is the inequitable distribution of income and resources. Despite being resource-rich in forestry, agriculture, and oil and gas, Sabah is the poorest Malaysian state (19.5% poverty rate in 2019) and has the highest unemployment rate in the country (5.8% in 2019), according to Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).<sup>1</sup> According to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, there is a possibility that the real number of the poor is higher than what is listed in the database.<sup>2</sup>

Poverty in Sabah is endemic and widespread with Tongud having the highest number of households living in poverty at 56.6%, followed by Pitas (53.6%), Kota Marudu (46.1%), Beluran (45%), Telupid (40.7%) and Nabawan (35.6%). The Sabah average incidence of poverty is 19.5%. This figure is almost four times the national average of 5.6% in 2019.

The overall household income falls under the poverty level and the rural populated areas are in the Tongod, Kota Marudu, Beluran, Telupid, Kudat and Nabawan districts.<sup>3</sup> The majority of the population in those areas are indigenous communities who are not integrated into the mainstream of development. Thus, the income disparities between districts and the urban-rural divide are obvious. Many of the rural folk live on a subsistence level and a majority are low-skilled workers relying on daily wages with no savings. The lack of jobs and insufficient wages aggravate the situation, making it difficult for the poor to get out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

In the Pensiangan parliamentary constituency, which consists of Dun Sook, Tulid, Nabawan and Pensiangan, the stakeholders engaged in this research included the MP's office, civil society and community leaders. Key informants provided vital ground information to the team, showing the challenges villagers living in remote areas, such as Pensiangan and Nabawan, face – such as taking half a day and even full day for a round-trip to the nearest town because of the poor road conditions. Poor infrastructures and uncondusive road network are part of the factors contributing to poverty. The remoteness and geographical isolation limit the accessibility and opportunities to education, jobs, basic amenities and communications.

A major problem in the remote areas of Pensiangan and Nabawan is transport. Most of the villagers in the interior divisions are subsistence farmers and the unreliable connections between rural areas and towns have caused difficulties for farmers transporting their produces to the main markets. Based on the focus group discussions in a few villages, farmers lamented over the high transportation costs

and time-consuming travel to town. Their weekly average income of RM100 could not alleviate their problems, while Covid-19 worsened the situation.

### 9.1.2 Unemployment among women and youth

The population statistics and the distribution of age groups in Sabah (2019-2020) showed that 73.4% were between 15 and 64 years old, meaning the cohort of economically active population is relatively high. This indicates the need for skills training, tertiary education and employment for both men and women in the state.<sup>4</sup> The unemployment rate in Sabah is among the highest in the country, rising to 5.8% in 2020, which was higher than the average national unemployment rate at 4.5% (DOSM, 2020).<sup>5</sup> While male unemployment is higher in Sabah, females also experience higher unemployment rates. Comparing the labour force participation rate, females (52.5% in 2019) were lower than males (85.9%).

Even before the pandemic, Sabah recorded a 14% youth unemployment rate in 2019. Covid-19 infections and movement restrictions in Sabah led to more than 284,000 youths being unemployed.<sup>6</sup> The challenge to creating jobs for youth in rural areas includes lack of access to networks, entrepreneurship training, skills and people who can assist and support.

On the other hand, based on the discussion with local stakeholders, remote communities, especially in Nabawan, are more culturally conservative, adhering to traditional views and roles. In most cases, women are left behind in villages and take on responsibilities, such as cleaning, cooking, child and elder care, hence, limiting their ability to participate in economic activities or enrol in entrepreneurship training and programmes.

Another issue highlighted during the discussion with local stakeholders was the school dropout rate in rural areas, since many school-going age children live in low-income households. Although government primary schools are free, many households still cannot afford the cost of putting a child through school (e.g. food and transportation). According to a labour force survey (2018),<sup>7</sup> rural children are more likely to be out of school and the dropout rate for primary school pupils from 2014 to 2016 was between 0.05% and 0.10% in Sabah, while for secondary school, it was between 0.41% and 1.18%. According to Sabah Women's Action-Resource Group (SAWO), the practice of early or child marriages in remote areas, such as Nabawan, impacted on children's rights to education, health, protection and career opportunities. The number of single mothers in Pensiangan and Nabawan is also increasing. According to Rahman (2017), single mother and housewives face more difficulties finding jobs because the burden of household chores falls on them. Job demands, parenting and childcare become the barrier for most single mothers being employed, hence the preference for agriculture and selling fresh produce in the market.

### 9.1.3 Empowerment of women

Policies and strategies to empower women in this state have shown progressive developments over the decades. However, equality in development does not necessarily mean fair access to development opportunities. Despite structural difficulties, government-run programmes are constantly conducted for rural women, especially providing capacity building in leadership training and skills.<sup>8</sup> For example, in the 2020-2021 state budget, Sabah committed RM15.66 million to women development. This includes RM9.80 million for the establishment of micro loans, RM5.86 million to the Department of Women's Affairs to provide training in skills and development activities for single women from poor households.<sup>9</sup> There were 18,700 single women registered in March 2020 under sistem elektronik maklumat wanita or women in Sabah's expression (WISE). This platform was initiated by the department and is a source of information on development and provision of assistance to women who are in need, especially single mothers and those in the B40 group.<sup>10</sup>

Civil society organisations (CSO) in the state have been active assisting women venturing into entrepreneurship, especially in rural areas. Records show that their initiatives provide skills to rural women in microenterprise, financial management, marketing, agriculture and renewable energy. One well-known project was conducted by SWEPA, an award-winning collective that runs the barefoot solar project to create affordable and clean energy for rural women. This project was able to fulfil the SDG on sustainable, affordable and clean energy.<sup>11</sup>

### 9.1.4 Health and well-being

**Table 9.1.** List of clinics in P.182 Pensiangan

No.	Clinic	Location by DUN	
1	Klinik Desa Bahagia	Nabawan	
2	Klinik Desa Pandewan	Nabawan	
3	Klinik Kesihatan / Hospital Nabawan	Nabawan	
4	Klinik Kesihatan Pagalungan	Pagalungan, Nabawan	
5	Klinik Kesihatan Pensiangan	Pensiangan, Nabawan	
6	Klinik Kesihatan Sapulut	Sapulut, Nabawan	
7	Klinik Kesihatan Mansiat		Sook
8	Klinik Kesihatan Tulid		Sook
9	Klinik Kesihatan Kabatang Baru		Sook
10	Klinik Kesihatan Rancangan Belia, Tiulon		Sook
11	Klinik Kesihatan Sook		Sook

Source: P.182 Pensiangan liaison office, February 2020

Like any district, health services and amenities are available in the Pensiangan constituency. However, these face problems which require immediate attention. Based on a recent press report, health facilities in the constituency need upgrading. For example, the existing Nabawan district health clinic (type 4) needs to be upgraded to a hospital to serve the needs of the growing population in the constituency, especially for critical patients. The small clinics serving Pagalungan, Sepulut and Pensiangan sub-districts also need to be upgraded. Patients with critical illnesses in Nabawan district are required to be transferred to other district hospitals, which are distant. The clinics serving Pagalungan, Sepulut and Pensiangan, which altogether have about a population of 15,000, also need urgent upgrades.<sup>12</sup>

In Sabah and Sarawak, flying doctor services have been part of the health services to remote and inaccessible areas. The service is almost four decades old. But in 2016, Sabah halted the flying doctor services. Civil society and a political party (DAP) in Pensiangan opposed the decision and accused the state government of worsening the situation, especially for villages in the remote regions of Pensiangan.<sup>13</sup> Having been deprived of proper roads, these communities were forced to traverse treacherous terrains along the rivers to gain access to healthcare. Their hardship was compounded by the poor quality of healthcare services since most rural clinics have low stocks of supplies with dilapidated and outdated equipment.<sup>14</sup>

In 2019, Sabah reactivated the flying doctor service for 11 villages in three districts in Sabah. Three villages in Nabawan – Kg Kabu, Kg Sililiran and Kg Karampalon – were among the beneficiaries. Apart from the flying doctor services, another health service using helicopters in Sabah is the medical evacuation service (Medevac), which sends patients to the nearest referral hospital.<sup>15</sup>

### **9.1.5 Child marriage**

Unicef reports that child marriage is a global phenomenon, which affects the lives of millions of children each year. Malaysia is no exception. It was reported that between 2007 and 2017, about 15,000 cases were recorded in Malaysia, with child marriage occurring in all communities across the country.<sup>16</sup>

SAWO, one of the active groups focusing on women and health, conducted a study on child marriage. From 2013 until 2016, SAWO investigated the prevalence of violence against women (VAW) in five districts across Sabah. It found that 140 (59.6%) out of the 233 female respondents had experienced either one of the three forms of VAW, either emotional, physical and sexual abuse with 32 (13.7%) rape survivors. The survey also includes cases of child marriage. The findings registered that out of 233 respondents, 211 provided responses. Thirty-four women (14.5% of the 211) were married before they reached 16. If the minimum age of marriage was

18, 80 respondents (34.0% of those who replied) were married before 18 (SAWO survey to address VAW in rural Sabah in 2013-2016 [unpublished]).

The latest data on child marriage was recorded recently. Sixty-three child marriages were recorded in Sabah from the first nine months of 2020. According to the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the Shariah Judiciary Department Malaysia's (JKSM) records for Muslim couples showed that there were 520 applications for underage marriages from early January to September 2020, with the highest number of such cases in Sarawak (83), followed by Kelantan (80) and Sabah (63). As for non-Muslim couples, the National Registration Department's (NRD) records showed 23 underage marriages in the same period, with the highest in Sarawak (7), followed by Selangor (6). In 2018, a total of 1,856 children were involved in marriages, with 1,674 of Bumiputera ethnicity, Chinese (100), Indian (20) and other ethnicities (62).<sup>17</sup>

Due to the socio-economic implication of child marriages, serious attention must be given to this phenomenon taking place in rural and remote areas in Sabah. The main factors behind child marriages in Sabah are related to poverty, tradition and remoteness. Table 9.2 highlights the recorded number of child marriages in Sabah in 2018.

**Table 9.2.** Child marriages in Sabah

Children	Total in Sabah	Year	Source
Muslims	955 (total) 505 (female only)	2011-2016	Department of Shariah Judiciary-Malaysia
Non-Muslims	167 (total) (female only, age 16-18)	2005-October 2015	National Population and Family Development Board, citing the National Registration Department

Source: Unicef Malaysia<sup>18</sup>

In January 2020, the then deputy prime minister and minister of women, family and community development launched the national strategy plan to handle the causes of child marriage (2020-2025). The plan aims to end the practice in all jurisdictions through short-, medium- and long-term programmes or actions involving federal and state government agencies, civil society, international organisations and communities. A steering committee was established to monitor its implementation.

In addition, Sabah developed a state action plan in July 2019 that is aligned with the ministry's national strategy plan and formed task forces to oversee and monitor implementation of the state plan. This plan is the guiding framework towards ending child marriages in Sabah over a 10-year period (2020-2030).

Child marriage is a manifestation of several interrelated social problems that must be addressed seriously. The role of the state and relevant stakeholders is paramount to mitigate this problem.

### 9.1.6 School dropouts

The incidence of dropouts is another priority issue identified in the Pensiangan constituency. Children are trapped in poverty, unable to complete their studies and some could not attend schools. And when they grow up, they are excluded from employment opportunities. The problem is largely due to poverty, inaccessible schools and a lack of amenities. In 2017, the Education Ministry revealed that dropout rates of primary school pupils in Peninsular Malaysia were between 0.26% and 0.74% for 2014 to 2016, while the rates in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan were between 0.05% and 0.10%.<sup>19</sup>

**Table 9.3.** Total of school (primary and secondary schools) in Pensiangan

No.	School	DUN	Total
1	Primary school (SK)	N37 Sook	42
		N38 Nabawan	27
2	Secondary school (SMK)	N37 Sook	3
		N38 Nabawan	3

Source: P.182 parliament liaison office, February 2020

There are several factors contributing to the dropout problem in Sabah. Among these are poverty, location of schools and inaccessibility, and undocumented children.

#### 1) Poverty

Poverty is the main cause. Based on a study by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), Sabah, it is reported there were nearly 20,000 dropouts every year in the transition from Year 6 to Form 1, between the ages of 11 and 12, and then within the subsequent years in secondary schooling recorded in 2017. In absolute terms, thousands of children are still dropping out from the mainstream schooling system.<sup>20</sup>

#### 2) School location and accessibility (road problems in remote areas)

Below are examples of remoteness and the bad road network in the Pensiangan constituency:

- Schools are in remote areas, such as Salinatan, SK Pekan Pensiangan, SK Sibanggali and SK Saliliran, comprising almost about average of 200 pupils. Some of these schools are 197km and 87km from Nabawan and

the condition of the route is a stony laterite path, crossing Sg Karilin, while Nabawan is 166km from Kota Kinabalu.<sup>21</sup>

- Other schools in Nabawan, such as SK Bonor, SK Mamagun, SK Binaun, SK Pohon Batu, SK Pengaraan, SK Nagkawangan, SK Layon and SK Prantomon, face the same issues where access depends on logging roads, which are in a poor condition.<sup>22</sup>
- This geographical factor and distance and lack of good roads (logging roads) not only make it difficult for pupils to go to school, even teachers have difficulties reaching their classrooms.

### 3) Documentation issues among local communities in remote areas

Undocumented children living in the remote areas of Sabah are another reason for the dropout rate. Efforts were made by the state government to identify and record children born in rural and remote areas, particularly to stateless parents who lack identity cards and their children not possessing birth certificates. The lack of these documents prevents children from going to school. Parents cite difficulties reaching towns to register themselves and their children.

In 2019, 2,635 Bumiputera undocumented children were admitted to national schools under the Pakatan Harapan (PH) administration. Of these, Sabah recorded the highest number of Bumiputera (children without documents) accepted into government schools at 1,961 and the remaining 263 in Sarawak.<sup>23</sup> Former education minister Dr Maszlee Malik said the undocumented children were enrolled because of the magnitude of school dropout problem among the Bumiputeras.<sup>24</sup>

## 9.2 Assessment of delivery issues

There is a lack of awareness on gender equality (SDG 5) and on health and well-being (SDG 3)

For SDG 5, customs and traditions play an essential part in the community. In a society where patriarchy is dominant, men are given preferential treatment and have greater access to opportunities and resources, which strengthen their political and economic power. As a result, women and children are often marginalised and left behind.

There are still cases of child marriages with parents and village leaders unable to stop the practice because it would be seen as an attack on their cultural and ethnic identity.



Women's voices are not heard and taken up in development planning at the household, community and district levels. This results in imbalanced development with more focus on economic development while health and social needs are overlooked. For example, pregnant mothers need to travel by car and boat to the nearest clinic (Nabawan) for check-ups and they have to stay in Nabawan or Keningau at least a month before their due dates and one month after giving birth. In terms of role-pattern analyses, MPs, assemblymen, village heads, native courts and native chiefs, government agencies (both federal and state) and community-based organisations all have an important role to play.

However, there are certain capacity gaps:

- Government agencies
  - > need more knowledge and awareness on SDG in general and SDG 3 and 5 in detail.
  - > need to know state and federal policies and laws related to the development and protection of women and children.
  - > more human and financial resources needed to cover a wide area and difficult terrain.
- Stakeholders/village heads, local communities, women and youth
  - > information/knowledge on SDGs should be shared with everyone in the constituency, as this could change their mindset and way of life.
  - > capacity building for village and community leaders on government development policies in general and specifically on women and children.
  - > leadership training for women to equip them for leadership roles.

### 9.3 Observations of solution projects

Participants were satisfied with the workshops and expressed a wish to attend more such workshops on other SDG goals.

Participants felt empowered and more confident after learning about their rights. They were able to identify the inequalities in their homes and discuss ways to eliminate them.

Discussion on access to health facilities was the main concern for mothers in Kg Balaron. There are no nearby hospitals for women and children in the village – pregnant mothers must travel to Keningau town about four hours away. The expenses for accommodation and food can be high as some need to stay there

for more than a month. They also discussed the lack of health screening, such as pap smear, and lack of treatment for jaundice among newborns.

Suggestions from mothers to have a mobile health clinic:

- visits to villages in Pensiangan to give talks and workshops on the importance of health for women, children and family.
- set up a klinik desa and appoint specialists for women and children in the village.

The men discussed the challenges and ways to promote gender equality in the community. Some of the challenges are the cultural beliefs in the community, customs and traditions.

Ways to achieve this is to conduct more workshops to educate men on:

- implementing and strengthening policies for the promotion of gender equality.
- the responsibilities and roles of the customary chief (ketua adat) to educate the community on gender equality.

Many participants commented that there are still cases of child marriages, but the numbers are declining. The status of women is elevated in the community, but most of them still find it difficult to accept the notion of gender. Leadership opportunities for women are still unacceptable to some men, who insist that women remain in the kitchen and barred from meeting guests or outsiders. Most women and youth wish to have more workshops to equip the community on leadership roles. There is a demand for more talks and workshops on health.

The youth also feel left behind as their needs and thoughts differ from the older generation. Many feel that they lack a platform to voice out or to participate in planning and decision-making in their communities.

## **9.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion**

The validation of the prioritised issues on the Pensiangan constituency is based mainly on secondary data and a few are based on stakeholders' (communities, agencies, CSO, individuals and key informants) opinions and recommendations to mitigate issues of poverty, employment and skill training for both sexes, accessibility to public health and amenities, education and digital infrastructural support for their children during the pandemic. The three issues highlighted in this report are interconnected – poverty, employment and economy, health and wellbeing – and factors which present obstacles to the community's participation in development.

Solving these problems could address the issue of school dropouts and child marriages.

Policy recommendations include:

- the Education Ministry to include child rights in the curriculum at the primary school level to teach youngsters their rights and need to respect each other irrespective of ethnicity and race, religion and class. This is important to inculcate a sense of confidence among the young, which will have an impact on them over the years as they develop into young adults. An empowered child will be an empowered youth and adult.
- the ministry to build more secondary schools to deliver quality education to rural areas that are under-served in this constituency. Another option is the provision of more residential schools, particularly for girls to avoid dropping out in upper primary school and the phenomenon of child marriage or entering the workforce in low-paying dead-end jobs in urban areas.
- reform the “adat” laws and practices to be more gender sensitive; incorporate measures to deal with issues like domestic violence and child sexual abuse in the “adat” and native courts.
- appoint more women as native court judges and provide gender sensitisation to all native court judges to better equip them to deal with issues, such as domestic violence and incest.
- local authorities and agencies need to have more inclusive and participatory consultations with representatives of the communities they serve. The traditional channels of depending on village heads and political leaders are often top down and have failed to reach a broad cross section of the communities.

- 
- 1 Department of Statistics Malaysia. (2020). *Sabah @ a glance*. [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cone&menu\\_id=dTZ0K2o4YXgrSDRtaEJyVmZ1R2h5dz09](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cone&menu_id=dTZ0K2o4YXgrSDRtaEJyVmZ1R2h5dz09)
  - 2 Geraldine, A. (2020, September 19). *Sabah ranks as Malaysia's poorest state, again*. New Straits Times <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/09/625711/sabah-ranks-malaysias-poorest-state-again>
  - 3 Lim, G. N., & Mansur, K. (2015). Understanding poverty and vulnerability by utilizing the sustainable livelihood approach: A comprehensive study among Rungus ethnic in Sabah, Malaysia. *Malaysian Journal of Business and Economics*, 2(1), 1–24.
  - 4 Menon, S. (2021, May 9). *Women face higher unemployment rates than their male counterparts*. The Star. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2021/05/09/women-face-higher-unemployment-rates-than-their-male-counterparts>
  - 5 Statista. *Total population of Sabah in Malaysia from 2011 to 2019, with an estimate for 2020*. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1041494/total-population-sabah-malaysia/>
  - 6 Department of Statistics Malaysia. (2021). *Sabah @ a glance*. [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cone&menu\\_id=dTZ0K2o4YXgrSDRtaEJyVmZ1R2h5dz09](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cone&menu_id=dTZ0K2o4YXgrSDRtaEJyVmZ1R2h5dz09)
  - 7 Department of Statistics Malaysia. (2019). *Labour force survey report, Malaysia, 2018*.
  - 8 Wahid, E. A. (2020, September 5). *KPLB peringkat aktiviti wanita luar bandar berimpak tinggi*. Sinar Harian. <https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/99846/EDISI/Sabah-Sarawak>

- 9 N., J. (2021, April 15). *Kerajaan negeri terus komited pastikan pembangunan wanita di Sabah*. Sabah News. <https://sabahnews.com.my/kerajaan-negeri-terus-komited-pastikan-pembangunan-wanita-di-sabah/>
- 10 Bernama. (2020, July 7). *JHEWA salur maklumat kepada lebih 18,000 ibu tunggal menerusi WISE*. Utusan Borneo Online. <https://www.utusanborneo.com.my/2020/07/07/jhewa-salur-maklumat-kepada-lebih-18000-ibu-tunggal-menerusi-wise>
- 11 Bernama. (2017, October 24). *Sabah to empower women to be entrepreneurs*. The Star. <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2017/10/24/sabah-to-empower-women-to-be-entrepreneurs>
- 12 Ralon, L. (2019, November 19). *Upgrade Nabawan clinic to district hospital: Bobbey*. Daily Express. <https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/143541/upgrade-nabawan-clinic-to-district-hospital-bobbey/>
- 13 The Borneo Post (Sabah). (2016, November 13). *Call for better health care for rural folk*. <https://www.pressreader.com/malaysia/the-borneo-post-sabah/20161113/281612419978697>
- 14 Borneo Today. (2016, November 13). *Government failed to provide better health care for rural folks: DAP*. <https://www.borneotoday.net/government-failed-to-provide-better-health-care-for-rural-folks-dap/>
- 15 Bernama. (2018, November 15). *11 Sabah villages to get flying doctor service next year*. Free Malaysia Today. <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/sabahsarawak/2018/11/15/11-sabah-villages-to-get-flying-doctor-service-next-year/>
- 16 Unicef Malaysia. (2021, March). *Advocacy brief: Towards ending child marriage in Malaysia*. <https://www.unicef.org/malaysia/reports/towards-ending-child-marriage-malaysia>
- 17 Borneo Post Online. (2020, December 5). *63 child marriages in Sabah in nine months*. <https://www.theborneopost.com/2020/12/05/63-child-marriages-in-sabah-in-nine-months/>
- 18 Unicef Malaysia. (2019, July 3). *Sabah state government acts to end child marriage* [Press release]. <https://www.unicef.org/malaysia/press-releases/sabah-state-government-acts-end-child-marriage>; and Unicef Malaysia, *Advocacy brief*.
- 19 Hasnan, H. A. (2017, November 22). *Pelajar sekolah Semenanjung lebih ramai tercicir daripada Sabah, Sarawak*. Astro Awani. <https://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/pelajar-sekolah-semenanjung-lebih-ramai-tercicir-daripada-sabah-sarawak-161012>
- 20 Chok, S. Y. (2017, May 19). *Poverty main cause of big dropouts – IDS chairman*. Borneo Post Online. <https://www.theborneopost.com/2017/05/19/poverty-main-cause-of-big-dropouts-ids-chairman/>
- 21 Bernama. (2020, October 5). *Call to upgrade road to 4 Pensiangan schools*. Daily Express. <https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/159375/%20call-to-upgrade-road-to-4-pensiangan-schools/>
- 22 Saidie, S. (2020, July 20). *Bridge collapse cuts access to eight Nabawan schools*. Daily Express. <http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/155975/bridge-collapse-cuts-access-to-eight-nabawan-schools/>
- 23 Borneo Today. (2019, January 26). *JPN Sabah keluarkan 46,918 sijil lahir dalam program unit bergerak khas*. <https://www.borneotoday.net/jpn-sabah-keluarkan-46-918-sijil-lahir-dalam-program-unit-bergerak-khas/>
- 24 Astro Awani. (2019, February 19). *Sabah terima murid tanpa dokumen paling ramai – Maszlee*. <https://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/sabah-terima-murid-tanpa-dokumen-paling-ramai-maszlee-198949>

# 10

---

## Situational analysis: **Bandar Kuching** **(P.195), Sarawak**



By Assoc Prof Dr Zaimuariffudin Shukri Nordin,  
Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development,  
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

## 10.1 Issue mapping and validation of findings

### 10.1.1 Squatters

According to the United Nations, "squatter settlement is defined as a low residential area, which has developed without legal right to the land or permission from the concerned authorities to build, and as a result, of their illegal status, infrastructure and services are usually inadequate".<sup>1</sup>

On the other hand, slums are contiguous settlements where inhabitants are characterised by insecure residential status, inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and other basic infrastructure and services, poor housing quality, and overcrowding.<sup>2</sup> Both are forms of informal settlements that are not formally planned. The population of Sarawak is around 2.8 million, according to Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) in its first quarter report of 2021, and an estimated 71,500 live in Kuching.

In Sarawak, according to a report in *Borneo Post Online*, there is no official census that has been conducted on slum settlers. According to government estimation, there are about 1,000 squatters in Kuching, compared with an estimated 4,000 in Miri and 3,000 in Bintulu, although the number could be lower or higher.<sup>3</sup>

According to political secretary to the then chief minister, Datuk Paul Igai, the squatters were scattered at the old Kg Kudei, Sg Apong, Jalan Chawan, Kg Stakan and Batu Kawa.

In terms of household income and expenditure in Kuching, the median monthly household gross income is RM5,740 and the mean is RM7,376 and the Gini coefficient and incidence of poverty is around 0.374. The incidence of poverty is 5.6%.<sup>4</sup>

A majority of the squatters are from rural areas who came to the city to find jobs and end up living in the area next to a graveyard in Kg Chawan. They could not afford city rents because of their family size. In addition, they prefer to stay with their own community. Although their families were categorised as bottom 40% (B40), it did not hamper their children from pursuing their studies at institutions of higher education and obtain tertiary education.

General profile of the village	Total	Status		
		Married	Single	Widowed
No. of people	115	52	58	5
Males	65	26	33	0
Females	50	26	25	5
No. of households		26		

Reasons for moving to Kg Chawan	No. of households	Frequency of going back to hometown	No. of households
Married – moving in with spouse's family living in Kg Pendam Gena	1	Never	1
Family – moving in with family members who came to Kuching to look for work	1	Rarely	4
Looking for work as an individual	13	Once a year	15
Family – having conflicts/ children who go to a nearby school	5	Twice a year	2
Evicted – cannot afford previous rent or employers decided to stop providing hostels	4	3 times a year	3
Available space in Kg Chawan	2	Frequently	1

\*Abstract report from research conducted between Sadia & Unimas (n.d.)

The Iban community had settled in Kg Chawan for a long time, with the longest stay being 35 years. Some households have intermarried, such as Bidayuh and Chinese. The largest age group (68 people) is between the ages of 21 and 90, with 47 people under 20 (report from Sadia & Unimas).

### 10.1.2 Income and poverty

Many are working in lower-skill industries, such as construction labourers, manufacturing and shipping sectors, restaurants and supermarket.

A majority of the males work as drivers, labourers, storekeepers and contractors in local factories/manufacturing enterprises or in Pending/Stampin, school gardeners and furniture installers. Females work as cooks/cleaners in nearby schools, such as SMK Bandar Kuching, SK Kenyalang and SJK Chung Hua No. 5, sales assistants/waitresses in local malls, or as waitresses in nearby restaurants (report from Sadia & Unimas).

According to a report by Sadia, they earn between RM800 and RM1,600 per month. When the school year begins, the households in Kg Pendam Gena spend most of their money on school supplies for their children (estimated at RM350 per child) and groceries (minimum RM250 per month). Petrol, monthly payments for motorcycles/ cars (if any) and phone bills are additional expenses.

According to the Sarawak government through a response from Ministry of Welfare, Community Wellbeing, Women, Family and Childhood Development, the state has identified the poverty among the urban population in Kuching and Sarawak.

Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) commissioner Dr Madeline Berma, citing DOSM 2019 data, said the poverty rate in Sarawak was 0.6% and urban poverty 0.3%. Berma also quoted a report from DOSM on the impact of Covid-19 in 2020, highlighting that 56.3% of total respondents in Sarawak claimed that their financial situation was severely affected, moderately affected (20.7%), slightly affected (16.5%) and least affected (6.5%) by the enforcement of the movement-control order (MCO).<sup>5</sup>

APPGM-SDG conducted a sustainable project in conjunction with Sarawak Dayak Iban Association, known by its acronym Sadia, to help Kg Chawan residents. The project dubbed "slum incubator" was an initiative of the chief minister's office.

The project involved various programmes, including health screening, education and upskilling. APPGM collaborated with Sadia to identify the needs of the community. Youth from rural areas, who came to the city to pursue their studies, also came to obtain information on the basic needs of the community. A needs assessment study was undertaken door to door to determine individual needs in the area. The data obtained was supported by previous research findings undertaken by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) in conjunction with Sadia. There are problems with the surroundings, such as poor drainage and waste management.

Access to clean water and electricity has become a significant issue in the community, as the utilities could not cope with the demand. Their homes, built on and near to the burial ground, are prone to other problems. The residents also stated their concerns over their health, as they incurred costs when they had to visit nearby government clinics. Most of the residents are recipients of household living aid from the Department of Social Welfare (JKM).

The slum incubator project invited the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) to help with health screening programmes. YB Dr Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen, a representative of Kuching city constituency, assisted by Sadia requested LPPKN to set up a one-stop health screening programme using a bus.



### **10.1.3 Education**

In 2019, Kuching had a total of 188 schools, with 147 primary and 41 secondary schools. There are 39 academic schools and two post-secondary schools in the system. In 2019, the primary schools had 4,584 teachers and 56,495 pupils, while secondary schools had 3,673 teachers and 46,651 pupils.<sup>6</sup>

Issues related to education included the need for pupils to use electronic devices for their learning because of MCO. Not all families could afford devices for online learning and had to share equipment among family members. Their housing condition and surroundings were also not conducive for learning.

In Kuching, the percentage of households with telecommunication equipment and subscription to internet stood at 96.3% in 2019 and owners of mobile phones at almost 99%. Households with pay TV were 68.2%.<sup>7</sup> Data from DOSM also reveal that access to clean water, electricity and rubbish collection was 100%. Nonetheless, this may not cover squatter areas, such as Kg Chawan.

APPGM in conjunction with Sadia reached out to a tuition centre to conduct extra classes for children in the community to ensure that they were not left behind. The primary schoolchildren were enthusiastic with many walking and riding motorcycles to the tuition centre. This project had a significant impact on the children's learning, specifically during the Covid period.

### **10.1.4 Other issues**

The project team held a gotong-royong to help reduce the risks of mosquito, rat and viruses breeding. The team wrote to the local authorities to ask for more bins for the area.

Sadia embarked on a project to supply lumber and tools needed by the villagers to renovate their home pedestals, which were at risk of rotting and constituted a hazard.

Sadia, APPGM and the MP's office also helped to resolve their difficulties with JKM. A workshop was held with stakeholders in October 2020 and a few government agencies were present to try to resolve the problems in the area and among the squatters.

The most fascinating part was the presentation from Kg Chawan youth on how to transform their community.

## 10.2 Assessment of delivery issues

The root cause of the issue is poverty attributed to their low wages which are insufficient to meet basic needs, such as house rent. This resulted in a migration to squatter areas that provide some shelter, despite the lack of access to electricity and water. This brings the question of basic human rights to needs, such as shelter, clean water and access to electricity.

JKM and agencies, such as Kuching Resident's Office and the Fire and Rescue Department, can also play an important role.

Nonetheless, residents in squatter areas cause difficulties for agencies trying to collect information and data. Because of their squatter status, many cannot gain access to social welfare. Moving forward, from a rights-based framework, action needs to be taken to ensure that they have access to basic needs.

## 10.3 Observations of solution projects

Politics remains a stumbling block with some community leaders rejecting assistance because of their party affiliation. This goes against the wishes of residents who need help and could not care less which political party extended it. It is clear that some leaders cannot distinguish between political loyalty and basic needs.

Kg Chawan residents felt empowered when tasked with cleaning up their area, earning the respect of others while taking part in the APPGM-SDG projects. Including women in the projects also showed that their involvement mattered.

The youth participation was a highlight. Many enrolled in institutions of higher learning took the lead organising meetings, sharing ideas, obtaining feedback and participated in projects to improve conditions in their area. It is clear that they have a goal to assist the residents.

The important lesson here is to involve the community so that they may take charge of their lives and make the necessary changes.

## 10.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion

The important lesson for policymakers is that even if it is an opposition area, residents there are also citizens entitled to basic rights. Politics should not form the basis for assistance as all taxpayers, irrespective of their political leanings, are entitled to amenities and resources.

The federal and state governments should work together to find solutions to the squatters' problems and help them obtain the aid to which they are entitled.

- 
- 1 Mohanty, M. (2020). Squatter settlements and slums and sustainable development. In W. Filho, A. Azul, L. Brandli, P. Özuyar & T. Wall (Eds.), *Sustainable cities and communities: Encyclopedia of the UN sustainable development goals*. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-71061-7\\_49-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-71061-7_49-1)
  - 2 Ibid.
  - 3 Mail, R. (2015, January 18). *Squatting on the horns of dilemma*. Borneo Post Online. <https://www.theborneopost.com/2015/01/18/squatting-on-the-horns-of-dilemma/>
  - 4 [www.dosm.gov.my](http://www.dosm.gov.my)
  - 5 Sibon, P. (2020, April 21). *Twin crises of Covid-19, MCO highlight of Sarawak's growing urban poor*. Dayak Daily. <https://dayakdaily.com/twin-crises-of-covid-19-mco-highlights-plight-of-sarawaks-growing-urban-poor/>
  - 6 [www.dosm.gov.my](http://www.dosm.gov.my)
  - 7 Ibid.

# 11

---

## Situational analysis: **Batang Sadong (P.200), Sarawak**



By Assoc Prof Dr Zaimuariffudin Shukri Nordin,  
Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development,  
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

Batang Sadong is largely semi-rural as it is near an urban area (Kuching) though the distance remains a challenge in terms of development, including delivery of services and utilities (water, energy and waste). In general, semi-rural development and increasing accessibility and connectivity sit at the heart of the challenges and opportunities in Batang Sadong. A key theme that cuts across the whole parliamentary area was the issue of accessibility and connectivity.

## 11.1 Issue mapping and secondary data validation

Sadong Jaya (N24), Simunjan (N25) and Gedong are the three state constituencies that make up the Batang Sadong P200 (N26) parliamentary constituency. However, in terms of administration, such as education, this constituency has two offices: Simunjan and Samarahan. Only half of Simunjan district is under the Batang Sadong constituency but is used as a proxy because of the availability of data.

### 11.1.1 Education: lack of facilities in schools

The issue mapping visit highlighted many facility and infrastructure issues in public schools. The main issues were:

- facilities and infrastructures in poor condition
- standard of English proficiency declining among pupils, resulting in failure at the UPSR level
- not enough English teachers
- lack of buildings
- not enough computers
- not enough books for libraries
- not enough teaching and learning equipment

The main issue and causes are most likely due to the socio-economic status of the pupils. According to the district education office (DEO or PPD), about 93% or 819 from 875 of the pupils were from B40 households in one of the schools (SMK Sadong Jaya). Other schools had similar proportions of pupils from B40 households.

In terms of digital connectivity, 78.5% of households have internet subscription (DOSM 2021). This is an increase from 38.2% in 2016. There are also three internet centres in Simunjan. Also 97.5% have mobile phones. However, the data does not demonstrate the pockets or gaps between certain areas with poor bandwidth. This is the key challenge highlighted during the issue-mapping stage.

The lack of English teachers was raised by an officer from the education office. However, according to its data, only 2% of teachers do not major in English during training. The problem might be that English is not their first language in rural and semi-rural areas, where a majority are Malay and Iban. Teachers have to be retrained to improve their knowledge and skills to draw pupils' attention (Samarahan education office).

### 11.1.2 Market links for agricultural products

There is a high incidence of poverty in Simunjan. According to DOSM, it stands at 21.1%. Agriculture is the main economic activity. The combination of high dependence on agriculture products and the low access to market is seen as a major reason contributing to poverty.

According to a newspaper report, the Batang Sadong bridge, which spans the river for 1.48km and Sarawak's longest bridge, was completed in October 2016. This bridge connects towns, such as Sadong Jaya, Simunjan and Gedong to Samarahan, the most developed district near Kuching.<sup>1</sup> Its completion allowed lorries, vans and other vehicles to pass through. Sadong Jaya, the nearest town in Batang Sadong, is about 59km from Kuching International Airport.

Table 11.1 shows the distance between Kota Samarahan and the airport, port and bus terminal. It demonstrates the large size of Samarahan and why certain areas still face physical connectivity challenges.

**Table 11.1.** Distance between Samarahan and transport hubs

No.	Destination from Kota Samarahan	Distance	Duration
1	Kuching International Airport	22.3km via Kuching to Samarahan Expressway	27 mins
2	Kuching Central Bus Terminal	23.5km via Kuching to Samarahan Expressway	28 mins
3	Senari Port	34.6km via Jalan Bako	41 mins
4	Kuching Port Authority	22.9km via Kuching to Samarahan Expressway	31 mins
5	Rejang Port	397km via Route 1/AH150	5 hrs 29 mins
6	Pan Borneo – Batu 15	18.4km via Route 8302	22 mins
7	Gunung Ngeli Simunjan	68.6km	1 hr 44 mins
8	Sebangan Wharf	68.7km	1 hr 21 mins

Source: Future Samarahan 2025, Pejabat Residen dan Daerah Bahagian Samarahan 2018

Before the completion of the bridge, marketing of their products was inefficient. But the bridge had transformed their lives, allowing many to sell goods in towns, such as Samarahan and Kuching. However, many now need to be trained on marketing in the age of social media.

According to the MP's office P200 Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, there is need to change the approach towards food staple and security in the constituency. According to Nancy, lessons from the Covid-19 era are not confined to Batang Sadong but applicable worldwide. Among them are:

- food security and self-sufficiency
- sustainable economic activities
- supply chain and business model disruption
- ability to adapt and adopt new norms

The Batang Sadong service centre reviewed its strategies and approach to enable the development plan to be implemented effectively and timely. The main objective was to create a productive, resilient and sustainable community that could earn a high income and has the ability to insulate itself against external pressures that affect their income directly or indirectly.

In terms of food security and self-sufficiency post-Covid 19, the office suggested:

- rice being Malaysia's staple food needs to be imported as we are only 70% self-sufficient;
- Sarawak relies almost 80% on imported rice, as rural farmers who used to plant padi changed to oil palm, especially in the early 1990s;
- pockets of padi farmers in Batang Sadong retain their traditional way of life, especially within Lubok Punggor and Ulu Simunjan;
- in the aid distribution, some households requested that the food aid exclude rice and replaced with other items of the same value. They have enough supply from their farm;
- most constituents owned land of various sizes, which remain unproductive, thus creating low or no value to the owner;
- Batang Sadong's proximity to Kuching means it could be a potential food hub producer for the state capital.

Thus, agriculture remain the best hope not only to uplift incomes and livelihood but also as a key economic sector in Batang Sadong. It could also be integrated into tourism and services (presentation from MP's office).

### **11.1.3 Health: validate data on increase of TB cases**

According to DOSM data, Simunjan has five clinics providing basic healthcare. During the multistakeholder meetings, however, the health officer said tuberculosis (TB) was on the rise in the area. This was due to community infection with a new case reported weekly. Because of the sensitivity of the situation, the actual number could not be disclosed without the authorisation of the Health Department. Throughout this report, the researcher solely communicated with the health centre's person in charge, not the director.

## **11.2 Assessment of delivery issues**

The root cause as highlighted above is mainly due to the socio-economic situation with a high proportion of residents from the B40 income group. The size of the constituency and challenges in terms of physical connectivity contributed to issues, such as TB and difficulty ensuring a vibrant economy (such as lack of transport to market agricultural produce).

## **11.3 Observations of solution projects**

Batang Sadong covers three constituencies – Sadong Jaya, Simunjan and Gedong. The solution projects required a lot of coordination because of the vast distances.

### **11.3.1 Upgrade pedagogy and English teaching**

To upgrade pedagogy and ensure more productive English teaching and learning methods, the Samarahan and Simunjan education offices identified teachers who needed training and partnerships. They appointed My Readers from Kuala Lumpur to review and conduct the following:

- conduct interviews and surveys to determine teachers' pedagogical needs;
- to get an overview of the schooling situation and climate in Batang Sadong;
- conduct skill-building sessions on English vocabulary for teachers that can be used in teaching and techniques to develop a supportive atmosphere in classrooms;
- design technical learning developments for English based on input from teachers;
- get input on how teachers can gain professional learning development and the strengths and disadvantages in schools;



- this programme will improve teachers' confidence in teaching and diversify strategies according to the suitability of the place and pupils' level;
- Covid-19 affected school hours and made it impossible for teachers to determine the programme's efficacy in 2020;
- the main problem here is that its use is limited to schools and not daily to enhance the standard of English teaching and learning. Pupils should use English daily to make it more effective. There must also be long-term consistency in order to improve teaching quality.

### **11.3.2 Health and skills enhancement**

CSO Yayasan Salam carried out many initiatives for health projects as well as skills enhancement, among which were:

- health awareness project on breast cancer. Cancer survivors shared their experience with villagers on how to diagnose it and the importance of getting early treatment;
- another project was income generation for women who produced cloth masks. With the aid of a coach from Giat Mara, this programme taught participants how to make masks and sell them;
- because of mobilisation difficulties of trying to identify patients during the pandemic, there was no programme for TB;
- the mask-sewing project has long-term potential to increase women's incomes.

### **11.3.3 Marketing of products**

The Batang Sadong constituency adopted a different approach to “top-down” decisions on projects. Participants in the rumah usahawan wanita learnt sewing, baking and drying fish. Their participation in the APPGM-SDG project would boost their income and build their confidence to market the products on social media.

Through the concerns shared during the dialogue, the framework for capacity building and solution has been identified and assessed, listing all key issues.

Many problems remain, such as lack of cooperation between state and federal agencies coordinating school repairs. The MP's office has addressed the issue and it was excluded from the list of problems.

## 11.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion

The Batang Sadong visit highlighted various issues in the constituency. As a case study of semi-rural development in a geographically vast state, it showed the challenges of providing access to development. The B40 group, who make up the bulk of the population there, faced the most challenges, including access to basic amenities, such as electricity and water, and lack of access marketing their agricultural produce. The lack of infrastructure and marketing skills hampers their ability to uplift their livelihoods.

Many initiatives are in place to improve access to basic amenities. This includes a target of 100% access to clean water, which is a challenge due to the vast area and scattered nature of development in Batang Sadong. This demonstrates a best practice in utilising both gravity water tank and improving existing facilities.

In terms of physical access, improvements have been made to enhance connectivity, such as paved roads to connect certain villages. These initiatives reduced transport times and enhance logistics.

Education remains the priority followed by marketing of agricultural produce as part of a larger need to transform the agriculture sector and supply chain management in Batang Sadong and improving the detection and treatment of TB.

From a delivery perspective, fragmentation in the delivery system is a hurdle. In terms of education, as a federal agency, the involvement of MPs is restricted when, in fact, schools are dependent on assistance from a parliamentarian's office. Many issues are complicated by red tape and overlapping jurisdictions. For example, some school maintenance is the responsibility of Sarawak JKR and others under the federal agency. PPD coordinates the maintenance across various ministries, though confusion may have led to delays in maintenance projects. This leads to many health and safety concerns.

In general, the SDGs provide a framework to bridge the gap. Focusing on a needs-based approach, the APPGM team utilised SDGs as a platform to bring the different agencies together. Led by the MP's office, this created a platform to deal with the core challenges in the community and find solutions from agencies, civil society and academics.

---

1 New Sarawak Tribune. (2018, April 13). *Batang Sadong (P200) Sarawak's longest bridge creates opportunities*. <https://www.newsarawaktribune.com.my/batang-sadong-p200sarawaks-longest-bridge-creates-opportunities/>

12

**Conclusion**

One of the main goals of APPGM-SDG is to localise SDGs at the parliamentary constituency level by undertaking a mapping of local issues, solutions and networks working there. The APPGM-SDG also included a policy research component that aimed to draw out local ground issues for policy discussion among parliamentarians. Towards the objective set out under the APPGM-SDG to monitor SDG-related implementation and delivery, situational analysis was conducted and piloted in 10 constituencies. The findings appeared here.

To reiterate, the overall objectives of the situation analysis were to:

- improve the understanding of decision-makers and other stakeholders on the current status of delivery of development at the parliamentary area based on the SDGs;
- assess the impact of policy interventions on issues related to the achievement of SDGs at the parliamentary level;
- evaluate the process of development delivery to understand the underlying and root causes of bottlenecks in achieving the SDGs; and,
- support national planning, policies and development processes through understanding the mechanisms for successful localisation of SDGs, including for the purpose of raising parliamentary questions.

The following sub-sections provide a synthesis of the key findings.

## **12.1 Synthesis of key findings**

The mapping was conducted through focus group discussions (FGD) to address multiple issues across the 5Ps (people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership). Through a bottom-up approach, the respondents consisting of local community leaders, local civil society groups and local government agencies highlighted the most pressing issues. The key findings are highlighted below.

### **12.1.1 Prioritised issues**

The key issues identified and prioritised in APPGM-SDG 2020 constituencies are in table 12.1. The issues were mostly related to people, poverty and imbalanced development, social protection, land tenure and youth development. Food security and infrastructure were the major prosperity issues while pollution and flooding were top planetary issues.

The issues highlighted were often cross-cutting and interconnected. For example, poverty is closely interconnected with infrastructure development, demonstrating a

connection across prosperity and people. Nonetheless, the list highlighted, from the perspective of local stakeholders, that the key issues were largely linked to social (people) dimension of the SDGs. This finding demonstrated that while generally social statistics have largely seen improvement at the national level, primarily pre-Covid-19, on the ground, social issues still dominated the prioritised issues.

**Table 12.1.** Key issues prioritised in APPGM-SDG 2020 constituencies

No.	Cross-cutting policy issues	Locations	SDGs	No. of locations
1	Poverty and imbalanced development (infrastructure)	Jeli, Kuching, Papar, Pendang, Pensiangan, Tanjung Piai, Petaling Jaya	SDG10, SDG11	7
2	Social protection, social safety and welfare	Jeli, Selayang, Pendang, Kuching, Petaling Jaya	SDG1, SDG16	5
3	Land tenure, security and settlements	Bentong, Kuching, Pendang, Tanjung Piai, Petaling Jaya	SDG11, SDG16	5
4	Youth development, employment and drugs	Batang Sadong, Jeli, Kuching, Pensiangan, Petaling Jaya	SDG3, SDG4	4
5	Food security and agrofood supply chain	Batang Sadong, Bentong, Papar, Pendang	SDG2, SDG1, SDG8	4
6	Digital connectivity	Batang Sadong, Petaling Jaya, Jeli, Papar	SDG9	4
7	Health	Batang Sadong, Bentong, Pensiangan	SDG3	3
8	Welfare and rights of single mothers and gender mainstreaming	Jeli, Pensiangan, Petaling Jaya	SDG5, SDG1, SDG16	3
9	Environmental governance (pollution, human-wildlife conflict, oceans and river governance)	Papar, Selayang, Tanjung Piai	SDG6, SDG14, SDG12, SDG6, SDG15	3
10	Disaster management (floods) and climate change	Pendang, Tanjung Piai, Petaling Jaya	SDG6, SDG11, SDG13	3
11	Affordable housing and urban poverty	Selayang, Petaling Jaya	SDG11, SDG1	2
12	Sustainable tourism	Tanjung Piai, Pendang	SDG12	2
13	Refugees, migrants and stateless rights	Selayang	SDG16	1
14	Social cohesion and unity	Bentong	SDG16	1

## 12.1.2 Assessment of delivery issues

The situation analysis also undertook an assessment of delivery issues based on the FGDs and secondary data validation. The assessment highlighted a range of delivery issues across the 10 constituencies. The most frequent issue highlighted was the lack of infrastructure. This correlated with the challenge of imbalanced development, particularly in Sabah and Sarawak. The FGDs also raised examples of bureaucracy, particularly in relation to land ownership, which resulted in cases on land tenure and ownership, such as in Pendang.

In urban areas, the lack of enforcement, in particular, maintenance of PPRs (low-cost flats) in Petaling Jaya and Selayang, was also attributed to bureaucratic challenges. The compilation of delivery issues demonstrated that while the delivery issues differed, the main cause or mechanisms were attributed to government planning, delivery and enforcement. It is worth noting that these are based on the perceptions of the FGDs and not a final conclusion of the causal relationship between issue and cause.

**Table 12.2.** Assessment of delivery issues

Delivery issue	Main mechanism	Frequency
Lack of infrastructure	Government planning	5
Bureaucracy (i.e. land ownership, social welfare, inter-agency cooperation, etc)	Government delivery	4
Lack of enforcement	Government enforcement	4
Lack of employment and decent work opportunities	Market	3
Lack of awareness, knowledge and behavioural	Societal capacity	3
Geographical size and location	Environmental factor	3
Poverty and socio-economic status	Economic/market factor	3
High dependency on smallholder schemes	Government delivery	2
Lack of planning (i.e. land, others)	Government planning	2

The assessment of delivery issues is detailed and summarised in table 12.3. The assessment showed that the delivery issues differed in accordance with context. While these issues were largely attributed to delivery, the causes differed based on the issues. For example, in Pendang and Jeli, the focus was on smallholder schemes as a large portion of the population still depended on commodities, such as rubber, that are governed by smallholder schemes. In Pensiangan and Batang Sadong, the large geographical size highlights the challenges in infrastructure development. In this sense, any intervention needed to be contextualised.

**Table 12.3.** Summary of assessment of delivery issues in each location

Location	Assessment of delivery issues
Pendang (P.011), Kedah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High dependency on smallholder schemes and government agencies (i.e. FELDA, land ownership for Siamese community, MADA)</li> <li>• Land ownership procedures</li> <li>• Lack of enforcement</li> </ul>
Jeli (P.030), Kelantan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High dependency on smallholder schemes (i.e. Risdan) of which is ineffective (not in receipt of dividends)</li> <li>• Lack of decent work</li> <li>• Infrastructure (water, internet connectivity)</li> <li>• Land ownership procedures (Kg Air Chanal)</li> </ul>
Bentong (P.089), Pahang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness and interest (i.e. health, farming, etc)</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge (i.e. in organic farming)</li> <li>• Land planning (i.e. idle land)</li> </ul>
Selayang (P.097), Selangor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement, inefficiency and bureaucracy of agencies (i.e. waste management, welfare, immigrants)</li> </ul>
Petaling Jaya (P.105), Selangor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of inter-agency coordination (i.e. PPR and low-cost housing)</li> <li>• Poor urban development planning</li> <li>• Residents' behaviour and strata management and socio-economic factor</li> <li>• Lack of enforcement</li> </ul>
Tanjung Piai (P.165), Johor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal status</li> <li>• Infrastructure (waste facilities)</li> <li>• Geographical location</li> <li>• Lack of enforcement</li> </ul>
Papar (P.175), Sabah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of infrastructure</li> <li>• Illegal sand mining</li> <li>• Lack of enforcement</li> </ul>
Pensiangan (P.182), Sabah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness on gender equality</li> <li>• Large geographical area</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure</li> <li>• Agencies capacity on SDG and gender and health</li> </ul>
Bandar Kuching (P.195), Sarawak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty, low wages</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure</li> </ul>
Batang Sadong (P.200), Sarawak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-economic status (B40)</li> <li>• Geographical size and location</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure</li> </ul>

## 12.2 Way forward, future research and implications

The findings demonstrated that while many of the issues could be partially resolved by solution projects, many were systemic requiring either policy change or improvements at the implementation and enforcement levels. For example, the imbalanced level of infrastructure requires major changes to distribution of revenue, both from federal and state budgets. These are often large sums that are not able to be solved by small-scale projects. Institutional challenges, such as the lack of inter-agency cooperation or lack of enforcement, required systemic change.

These systemic and policy challenges demonstrated both the limitation and opportunity of the APPGM-SDG in moving forward. While the APPGM-SDG was not able nor mandated to solve all these challenges, it provided a platform for translating the issues to the policy level. The findings, contained in this volume as well as future findings of the APPGM-SDG, should be communicated to policymakers and parliamentarians. Towards this end, in 2022, APPGM-SDG initiated policy roundtables on some of the most pressing issues.

The findings also demonstrated the lack of both data at the local level and the qualitative documentation of the ground realities. This demonstrated two key points. First, that official data may be insufficient to highlight the situation at the ground level. APPGM-SDG, as a platform for multi-stakeholders to raise local issues, provided documentation on the reality on the ground that may not have been captured under certain indicators.

Second, many of the indicators under the SDG were not available at the local level. This demonstrated that further efforts to collect quantitative and qualitative data should continue and be enhanced. In the future, this would allow for strengthening the assessment at the ground level.

Finally, the findings have created a platform for inclusive policymaking. The process of both identifying issues and solutions through a bottom-up approach has resulted in a method that was both inclusive and participatory. As an implication, the APPGM-SDG provided a platform for stakeholders to communicate and influence policy at the local, state and federal levels. The implications of the APPGM-SDG to the policymaking process should be studied and enhanced further. The approach provides an example of a whole-of-society and whole-of-nation approach towards addressing the SDGs.





# Contributors

**Alizan Mahadi** is APPGM-SDG co-lead researcher and senior director (research) of the Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

**Dr Zainal Abidin Sanusi** is APPGM-SDG co-lead researcher and director of Sejahtera Centre, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

**Assoc Prof Dr Zaheruddin Othman** is with the School of Government, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)

**Dr Nor Suzylah Sohaimi** is with the School of Government, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)

**Dr Sharif Shofirun Sharif Ali** is with the School of Government, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)

**Dr Solahuddin Ismail** is with the School of Government, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)

**Assoc Prof Dr Wan Ahmad Amir Zal Wan Ismail** is director of Institut Penyelidikan dan Pengurusan Kemiskinan (InsPek), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)

**Assoc Prof Dr Khairul Azami Sidek** is deputy director of the Office of Industrial Links, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

**Asst Prof Dr Lau Zhe Wei** is with the Department of Political Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

**Calvin Cheng** is senior analyst at Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

**Asst Prof Dr Irina Safitri Zen** is deputy director of Sejahtera Centre for Sustainability & Humanity, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

**Prof Dr Murnizam Halik** is with Fakulti Psikologi dan Pendidikan, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)

**Prof Dr Junaenah Sulehan** is director of the Institute of Borneo Studies, University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF)

**Assoc Prof Dr Zaimuariffudin Shukri Nordin** is with the Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

This book, edited by Alizan Mahadi and Zainal Abidin Sanusi, compiles the findings of the issue mapping and assessment of the delivery challenges under the pilot phase of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on SDGs (APPGM-SDG). It consists of findings in 10 constituencies where a situational analysis was conducted.

The findings present a bottom-up and grounded approach to identify the issues and solutions to local challenges. While they highlighted a range of challenges in the local context, the APPGM-SDG approach demonstrated that through multi-stakeholder engagement, involving parliamentarians, solutions can be found and elevated as a policy priority.

ISBN 978-629-97554-0-1



9 7 8 6 2 9 9 7 5 5 4 0 1