

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESMENT (SIA) IN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN SARAWAK

Abstract

The rapid urban population growth in Sarawak's towns and cities created an urban sprawl phenomenon leading to occupation of land by squatters and rural migrants resulting to overcrowded villages and dense settlements in Sarawak's major cities particularly Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri. Therefore, Sarawak Government through Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources (MUDeNR) introduced and implemented the State Urban Renewal Implementation Guidelines (SURIG) in 2018 encompassing approved urban renewal projects. SURIG outlined five (5) main objectives of urban renewal consisting:

- (i) Uplifting physical and social well-being communities;
- (ii) Providing conducive, safe, healthy and orderly development;
- (iii) Generating income for the communities through new job creation and business opportunities;
- (iv) Generate wealth for property owners and their future generation; and
- (v) Provide affordable and quality housing to property owners and extended families.

Through SURIG, the "People First, Public Participatory" approach is practiced where urban renewal intertwine with physical, social, livelihood and economic elements which improves standard of living, social inclusivity and simultaneously generate economic, business and employment opportunities. Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Study is a compulsory requirement under SURIG prior to any physical development of urban renewal projects. The study is vital in identifying and assessing significant social variables in developing a comprehensive mitigating measure towards the betterment and sustainability quality of life.

