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**Title of paper**

**SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SIA) IN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN SARAWAK.**

**Abstract**

The landscape of development in Sarawak, particularly in towns and cities has changed significantly due to rapid urban population growth. This has eventually led to urban sprawl, which drives the occupation of land by squatters and rural migrants which resulted in overcrowded villages and dense settlements in major cities in Sarawak such as Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri. Therefore, Government of Sarawak through Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources (MUDeNR) has introduced and implemented the State Urban Renewal Implementation Guidelines (SURIG) in year 2018 for all approved urban renewal projects. SURIG has outlined five (5) main objectives of urban renewal as follows:

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

It was highlighted in SURIG that urban renewal shall be carried out with emphasize not only on the physical aspects but also on the social, livelihood and economic elements that can help to improve standard of living as well as

generate economic, business and employment opportunities. A “People First, Public Participatory” approach should be adopted too. The requirement to conduct Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Study is a compulsory by SURIG before the physical development of urban renewal projects. The SIA Study is a vital stage to identify and assess significant social variables and develop a comprehensive mitigating measure towards the betterment and sustainability of their quality of life. The pioneer urban renewal project is Darul Hana Redevelopment Project which occupies an area of 722 acres and involves twelve (12) villages with approximately 4,500 families. The SIA Study of Darul Hana Redevelopment Project was conducted in year 2018.

### **Summary statement**

The landscape of cities development in Sarawak has changed significantly due to rapid urban population growth. The Government of Sarawak has introduced the State Urban Renewal Implementation Guidelines (SURIG) in year 2018 where Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Study is a compulsory for all approved urban renewal projects.