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**THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF LIVEABILITY  
AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY IN RELATION TO  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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**Abstract:**

The primary focus of this paper's discussion is the enhancement of the concept of liveability (KDH) in relation to development of a country in terms of economic growth, and the environment. This paper addresses liveability concept (KDH) as one of the crucial elements in the formation of Inclusive Communities (KI). It relates to the development of a country with a quality and good atmosphere, as well as unity amongst communities, in order to ensure the community's well-being in a country. Among the issues debated are (i) the transformation of rural development in developing and building competitive rural communities on par with urban communities, (ii) the formation of inclusive and liveable communities, (iii) the realisation of the national liveability index, and (iv) well-being & sustainability of life. This paper uses secondary sources, such as study results published in journals, scholarly literature, internet news sources, and public forums, to employ a qualitative methodology. According to the findings of the study, the measures employed by a country to measure its liveability, such as the liveability index, have a significant role in ensuring the health and sustainability of communal life. The focus of the future study is on the importance of a country's agenda being sensitive to the balance between developing and increasingly developed nations. This is consistent with the issues, difficulties, and strategies of a country undergoing a phase or process of implementing the liveability index framework.

**Keywords:**

Liveability Concept (KDH), Inclusive Community (KI), Malaysian Liveability Index (iDAM), Sustainable Development, Sustainable Living

## Introduction

Year 2015 saw the introduction of sustainable development, which acts as an important national action framework for formulating policies to safeguard the future of the people. This comprises economic, social, political, and environmental aspects of modern progress. Sustainable development 2030 is an all-encompassing strategy for coordinating national development policies (Othman, 2021a; Jamaludin, Azman, & Wan Zakaria, 2019). Malaysia's national development goals have constantly incorporated economic, social, environmental considerations and particularly educational sectors (Othman, Esa, Hajimin & Marinsah, 2021b) that have been prevalent in Malaysia since 1957, which is the year of independence. Sustainability and inclusiveness have been important to the growth of Malaysia. The implementation of sustainable development is a continuation of the Malaysian Development Goals (MDG) which ended in 2015 (*Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia*, 2019).

The federal government has supported sustainable development through the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (RMKe11). Additionally, the Shared Prosperity Vision as known as *Wawasan Kemakmuran Bersama 2030* (WKB 2030) is one of Malaysia's contributions to the implementation of sustainable development for rural areas in 2030 (*Jabatan Perdana Menteri*, 2019). WKB 2030 intends to transform Malaysia into a nation with sustainable growth which targeted particularly to the youth generation (Othman, Esa, Ationg, Ibrahim, Lukin, & Abdul Hamid, 2021c).

The primary objective of WKB 2030 is to improve the level of living for all Malaysians by 2030. These initiatives represent Malaysia's efforts to execute sustainable national development in order to establish a thriving Malaysian society with Tun Abdul Razak proposing rural development in 1957 (Esa, Ationg, Othman, Raymond Majumah, Abu Bakar, Mohd Shah & Yusoff, 2021a; Mohd Balwi, 2005). The objective of rural development is to build physical infrastructure and equip rural populations with basic amenities. With the rural development, it makes it possible for rural areas to actively develop and progress. Additionally, rural development focuses on enhancing the well-being of rural populations. Hence, it strives to provide rural communities with essential infrastructure such as water, power, and roads.

The phrase 'liveable' is commonly used by Malaysian citizens (Idrus, Hadi & Harman Shah, 2010). The existence of life or a liveable environment is one of the keys to sustainable national growth. Every person desires a liveable environment, which typically entails living pleasantly, safely, calmly, healthily, and devoid of numerous heartaches. Every community in Malaysia desires a liveable location, and many views the city as their place of living. Due to the desire of the people to live comfortably, the national physical plan should improve the existing developments in Malaysia in order to reduce housing congestion. Every year, people from the countryside migrate to the city in order to experience a more complete lifestyle, thus increasing the city's population density. The quality aspect that is present in the city is significantly more modern than in the countryside, especially in rural areas that are deficient in many different ways. In addition, the well-being and safety of the community in a particular location will be enhanced by the orderly and sensible use of natural resources.

The primary factor connecting the community to the city is its route, which is the path of the suburbs that is linked to the transportation system. The three Development Cores and Strategic Directions of the Third National Physical Plan (NPP3) are Strategic Governance, Institutional Governance, and Operational Governance (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan*

*dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016). These three NPP3 seek to attain the goal of a more liveable nation by implementing uniform policies at the national, state, and local levels. Consequently, good and consistent governance can ensure that planning at all three levels can be coordinated. In general, the concept of liveability refers to the quality of life of the people in a country or region, as measured by their satisfaction with what the government has provided for their daily activities in an environment that is cheerful, safe, and fresh on the social, physical, and economic levels (Idrus, Hadi & Harman Shah, 2010).

### Literature Review

Malaysia's development has been primarily planned since the country's independence in 1957, when the National Development Plan was established. The National Development Plan is divided into four phases, one of which is the laissez-faire phase, which lasted from 1970 until our country's independence (A. Hatta, Pandian & Ahmad Farouk, 2010). The second phase, from 1971 to 1980, is the state intervention phase (A. Hatta, Pandian & Ahmad Farouk, 2010). The third phase is the liberalisation phase, which encompasses the absorption of Malaysia and privatisation from 1981 to 1996, and the final part is the upheaval phase, which begins in 1997 and continues after 1997 (A. Hatta, Pandian & Ahmad Farouk, 2010). The transformation phase of rural development is known as the rural development phase. The rural development phase is also known as the state intervention phase and the development phase of the New Economic Policy (NEP) (Othman, Mokhtar, Maidin & Moharam, 2021d).

As rural populations have a lesser standard of life than metropolitan communities, the government prioritises rural development and the transformation of human development (Mohd Balwi, 2005). The continuity resulted in the Vision Village Movement (GDW) being linked to the rural community development mechanism which is associated to rural community development initiatives in the new philosophy of rural development or the second rural area transformation. Vision Village Movement (GDW) aspires to educate rural communities about paradigm shifts, attitudes, behaviours, and aspirations, and to play a vital role in developing proactive and competitive citizens. Vision Village Movement (GDW) mechanisms such as human development, rural industrial development, and expanding rural community knowledge through the use of ICT. Vision Village Movement (GDW) is an endeavour to revolutionise rural development through the establishment and construction of rural towns with equivalent competitive features to metropolitan communities.

The implementation and coordination of the Third National Physical Plan (NPP3) has afforded the nation more opportunities to transform the Third National Physical Plan into a liveable development (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016). The Town and Country Planning Act (1976) implements and coordinates strategic directions, strategies, and actions within the State Structure Plan, the Local Plan, the Special Area Plan, and the Development Plan for the Iskandar Malaysia Development Region, the Regional Economic Region, and the East Coast (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016). In the interim, RFN-3 can be transformed into liveability when its implementation is coordinated with the state, district, or city's development plan. This is necessary so that there are no misunderstandings between the government, leaders, agencies, and the communities themselves.

The development of inclusive and liveable communities is among the actions performed by the Core 3 agencies. This core describes a more liveable implementation, one of which is to provide

suitable housing in an appropriate place. Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT), KKLW, Ministry of Health Malaysia (KKM), Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS), and Ministry of Education Malaysia (KPM) shall do the following steps (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016). In order to offer acceptable housing, these organisations must form Housing Boards in each state to implement state-level housing rules and maintain a housing database. In addition, these agencies must enhance the supply of low-cost housing in metropolitan areas for the B40 and M40 households that are their target demographic. In addition, they must provide public housing and low-cost housing zones near transit hubs in cities and suburbs (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016). Finally, they must undertake more planned development in inner-city villages, rural areas, and FELDA and FELCRA settlement areas in order to improve the quality of housing and neighbourhoods (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016).

Therefore, liveable settlements in the category of the country's physical plan have numerous additional benefits, such as the people having a higher level of trust in the government and complying with the country constantly, when their needs are met. Another agency action contained in core 3 is to increase and facilitate access to jobs and economic space as well as to better community facilities which is the action found in core 3, Section 1. The objective to create a liveable community environment is found in section 2. Some other tasks found in section 2 are making public space an active venue for community integration, bolstering the significance of culture and heritage, establishing a safe environment, and mainstreaming a healthy and clean lifestyle. KPKT, KWP, MOTAC, Ministry of the Interior (KDN), Non-Recurring Engineering (NRE), Ministry of Health, State Structural Plan (RSN), RT, and RKK are the implementing agencies (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016).

The Malaysian Liveability Index (iDAM) was established during the opening ceremony of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Malaysian Town Planning Profession (100PBM) and the World Town Planning Day (HPBS) launch (*Harian Metro*, 2021a). It seeks to ensure that the design of developed municipalities adheres to the principles outlined in the 4<sup>th</sup> National Physical Plan (RFN-4) by assessing the degree of people's well-being, regardless of the size of the impact (*Harian Metro*, 2021a). As additional information, there are five main aspirations that have become iDAM's guiding principles: (1) economic development that grows and prospers in the present and future, (2) the development of environmental quality, preservation and conservation of the environment as well as ensuring community safety, (3) applying an attitude of harmony between communities and maintaining the well-being of a family, (4) sustainability of land use and earth resources in developing countries, and (5) the efficiency of administrative management, infrastructural provision, and inclusive support. The Core 3 Formation of Inclusive and Viable Communities has three phases or processes involved in the implementation of the liveability index framework: a quality living environment that meets the needs and desires of the community, a liveable atmosphere between communities, and community freedom in self-involvement (*Harian Metro*, 2021a).

Providing a high-quality living environment that satisfies the demands of the community is one of the means by which the country's liveability index is achieved. This approach involves the application of indirect self-involvement in the community by highlighting the identity, legacy, and culture of each community, in addition to a clean, healthy, safe, and quiet environment.

For instance, abandoned places can be turned into a park for the community to mingle and relax, alley sections are created for merchants to do business and generate income, and public areas can also be used for other activities. This is intended not just to foster national identity, but also to produce revenue for the national economy. In accordance with this, the atmosphere between communities that has a liveable nature and community freedom in self-involvement is also one of the processes undertaken to achieve the liveability index of the nation.

In general, the setting of housing is frequently related with liveability. In addition, liveability entails urbanisation and sustainable growth to ensure the well-being of the community. According to Veenhoven (2006), wellbeing is associated with happiness. Moreover, he mentioned that happiness is a person's perception of how much the individuals enjoy their life or how they judge their entire life with a more optimistic perspective. Words such as well-being of life, quality of life, happiness, life satisfaction, and welfare can be used to describe the concept of a good life. However, well-being is not the same as happiness, despite the fact that the phrases are frequently used interchangeably. In actuality, the concept of well-being in life encompasses a broader range of phenomena, including individual emotional responses, areas of satisfaction, and global assessments of life satisfaction (Md. Yusof, Ali & Kamarudin, 2014).

Infrastructure is constructed in a region with the intention of enhancing the population's standard of living by numerous economic means, such as an increase in income, employment, and education (Othman, Jupiter, Awang & Yusoff, 2017). A place to reside is a prime example of infrastructure that is crucial to the community. To suit the requirements and desires of the expanding population, a hospitable dwelling is a need of life. The subject of housing and urban living is currently a popular topic of conversation in the media, among the general public, and among urban researchers. This is a major concern if the relevant parties do not take decisive action, as the population of Malaysia is expanding daily. On 17 December 2021, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) announced the Malaysian Liveability Index (iDAM) in order to implement the 4th Malaysian Physical Plan (RNF4) (*Harian Metro*, 2021a). Malaysian Liveability Index (iDAM) is used as a powerful tool for all communities to achieve sustainable municipal planning (*Harian Metro*, 2021a).

To conclude, this iDAM was developed to implement the primary objective of KPKT, which is the Aspiration for a Liveable Malaysia, where KPKT assures that the Malaysia Liveable Malaysia Agenda would be the ministry's focus in 2022. The Six Focuses of a Liveable Malaysia 2022, as outlined by the KPKT, are as follows: ensuring the provision of sufficient and quality affordable housing; mainstreaming digitisation in Local Authority (PBT) service delivery; empowering urban community development; improving firefighting and rescue preparedness; prioritising urban sustainability, development, and resilience of Green Cities; and transforming solid waste management towards the development of a circular economy (*Harian Metro*, 2021a). Therefore, this agenda can be carried out by deploying iDAM, which is essential for controlling and monitoring local circumstances in Malaysia (*Harian Metro*, 2021a).

## Methodology

The research methodology in this writing uses a qualitative approach based on social science disciplines that require careful observation of aspects that focus more on processes and events. Information from various sources such as primary and secondary sources by using secondary

data content analysis methods related to history, law, historiography, sociology and ethnography and partnered with descriptive analytical discussion (Creswell, 2014; Eriksson & Kovalainen, 2015). This paper uses secondary sources, such as study results published in journals, scholarly literature, internet news sources, and public forums, to employ a qualitative methodology. According to the findings of the study, the measures employed by a country to measure its liveability, such as the liveability index, have a significant role in ensuring the health and sustainability of communal life.

The focus of the study is on the importance of a country's agenda being sensitive to the balance between developing and increasingly developed nations. This is consistent with the issues, difficulties, and strategies of a country undergoing a phase or process of implementing the liveability index framework. This article discusses the outcomes of a study that establishes the liveability concept (KDH) as a crucial element in the growth of an Inclusive Community (KI). This strategy emphasises the use of a literature study to clarify facts based on real-world events by gathering primary and secondary sources. This discussion examines the results of secondary research by researching issues that increase the awareness and understanding of a multilevel society on the importance of achieving common a country's agenda being sensitive to the balance between developing and increasingly developed nations.

### **Discussion Of Issues**

This paper addresses liveability concept (KDH) as one of the crucial elements in the formation of Inclusive Communities (KI). It relates to the development of a country with a quality and good atmosphere, as well as unity amongst communities, in order to ensure the community's well-being in a country. Among the issues debated are (i) the transformation of rural development in developing and building competitive rural communities on par with urban communities, (ii) the formation of inclusive and liveable communities, (iii) the realisation of the national liveability index, (iv) well-being & sustainability of life and (v) the introduction of Malaysia's Housing Affordability Index (iDAM) in 2021.

#### ***The Transformation of Rural Development in Developing and Building Competitive Rural Communities on Par with Urban Communities***

The Rural Development Policy (DPLB) identifies "Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable, and Holistic Rural Areas" as the primary objective of the rural development process (*Kementerian Pembangunan Luar Bandar, 2020*). The affluent rural vision represents the government's desire to provide rural communities with infrastructure and social amenities. Employment and business opportunities in rural areas are projected to boost the income of rural residents. Rural communities will also have the ability to develop their human capital, live a healthy and secure life, and obtain services governed with ease. Through DPLB, the federal government has offered substantial assistance to bridge the divide between urban and rural areas where the government has attempted to eliminate the disparity between urban and rural quality of life. For instance, the government has developed economic opportunities, a social atmosphere, and a conducive environment to entice the community's interest in remaining in the countryside.

In addition, the government plans to encourage a portion of the urban population and investors to relocate to the countryside. This is due to the government's desire to raise the number of productive rural community and boost the economic capabilities of rural areas. Indirectly, rural areas will become key vacation and tourism destinations for domestic and international travellers. Moreover, visitors can appreciate the natural beauty, cultural legacy, and rural

lifestyle. Implementing the concept of "Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable, and Holistic Rural Areas" are ten rural development cores (*Kementerian Pembangunan Luar Bandar, 2020*). The ten pillars of development are a competitive and sustainable economy, entrepreneurship that drives economic development, quality human capital, comprehensive and advanced infrastructure, the superiority of the rural youth generation, progressive rural women, a prosperous rural life, delivery systems and effective governance, biodiversity and sustainable environment and housing, regional development, and integrated rural settlements.

The purpose of "Leading Rural Development" and the vision of "Prosperous Rural Areas" will be accomplished through DPLB-directed implementation (*Kementerian Pembangunan Luar Bandar, 2020*). This initiative strives to promote thriving rural communities in all facets of life. In addition, the government hopes that all members of the Malaysian community, regardless of race, religion, social level, gender, or age, can experience progress together. In addition, DPLB attempts to achieve a balance between social, economic, and natural growth. This can indirectly aid the government in achieving the DPLB's rural development aim. Supporting the implementation of the DPLB are 10 rural development cores that will steer policies and initiatives toward the realisation of the rural development vision.

### ***The Formation of Inclusive and Liveable Communities***

A liveable nation is the dream of all nation's residents. The Third National Physical Plan is the principal document used to determine the direction of national planning and development with the objective of creating resilient and liveable nation agencies (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, 2016*). RFN-3 can be converted into many areas of liveability, which naturally leads to the development of a nation. Malaysia is growing swiftly and resides in an era that continues to evolve each year. The Malaysian community wants the government to build liveable regions in order to improve their lives in a variety of ways. Not only does the people desire the development of their area, but the passage of time also compels the government to implement this NPP-3. The RFN-3 policy statement includes liveability and community cohesion aspects intended to build a community that is progressive, concerned, and engaged in the local and national development agenda. Community cohesion and the use of liveability aspects that strive to make public space, culture, and local heritage more liveable constitute the core of a community.

Concurrently, a country that desires a liveable existence must foster unity and strengthen it within communities, particularly when it involves the national identity or national history. Therefore, the Malaysian community should not give up on establishing a liveable nation and must first enhance their own quality. Placemaking is the application of shared values, the development of community capacity, and the promotion of cross-sector collaboration, which is the foundation for creating a liveable nation (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, 2016*). In order to build national resilience, there must be a greater emphasis on placemaking, as the resilience of a country has a complete interest in enhancing community preparedness for any crisis throughout the process of constructing a liveable country. The government should be sensitive to the reality that many states, particularly rural areas, lack of infrastructure that would alleviate the burdens of their residents.

A life that is quiet, comfortable, and surrounded by diverse amenities is of great assistance to people in this day and age. A convenience store like any other in the city is another example of a facility that must exist in the rural region. Due to the shortage of stores and supermarkets in

rural areas, residents must travel to the city to purchase items, where inventory is likewise restricted. In this view, a liveable city is the primary objective of city development, and, as in 1980, a liveable city leads to a more sustainable lifestyle. On 21 January 2022, YB Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Minister of Housing and Local Government (KPKT), announced the strengthening of the Malaysia Liveable agenda as the KPKT's 2022 direction in the 2022 Mandate Council and the launch of the Local Authority Empowerment Framework in Putrajaya (*Sinar Harian*, 2022).

During the KPKT's launch, he explained the KPKT's three philosophies, which are treating the people's worry, increasing the people's confidence, and meeting the people's expectations. In addition, he outlined the KPKT's Six Focus for Liveable Malaysia 2022, which include ensuring the provision of sufficient and affordable housing of high quality; mainstreaming digitisation in the delivery of Local Authority (PBT) services; and integrating digital technology into the delivery of Local Authority (PBT) services (*Sinar Harian*, 2022). The most important aspect of implementing the National Physical Plan is leadership fairness. Because the people already have trust in the leader, the existence of fairness among leaders will make it easier for the people to agree with anything the leader desires to accomplish (Ationg, Raymond Majumah, Abu Bakar, Zulhaimi, Muda, Othman & Abang Muis, 2021).

Consequently, buildings and existing public areas that have the potential to be developed as living spaces, particularly for local economic generation and for the convenience and use of the local community, must be identified prior to implementing the Strategic Direction outlined in the Third National Physical Plan. Once recognised, there will be an agreement between the community and the implementing agency regarding the improvement of an area to make it more liveable. To make it easier for workers to accomplish their jobs, a developing neighbourhood must have supported infrastructure such as electricity, water, public restrooms, and parking space. The government should encourage public participation in developing community activities through physical renewal and activity filling while implementing a liveable settlement. The local community, comprised of non-governmental organisations and citizens' groups, is among the parties active in physical renewal and activity filling.

These parties are encouraged to produce activities for the use of all ages and races in strategic public emphasis areas. This implies that the responsible parties should expedite their duties so that all residents of the region can experience comfort. Simultaneously, its implementation may entail the improvement and renewal of the physical environment, as well as the addition of activities that appeal to a large number of people or give public convenience. The Malaysia Urban Observatory (MUO) will be introduced as a database centre utilising the Integrated Smart Information System to promote the country's more sustainable growth (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016). The Malaysia Urban Observatory (MUO) plays a role in monitoring the implementation of the NPP-3 and related policies for the development of urban and regional areas in Malaysia. The Malaysia Urban Observatory (MUO) contributes significantly to the development of the country because this new policy has potential in a number of areas, particularly in monitoring and evaluating.

The Malaysia Urban Observatory (MUO) monitors the implementation of the strategic direction and actions of RFN-3 through indicators, evaluates the effectiveness of actions that have been identified, monitors development progress and the level of compliance with the existing Development Plan, assesses the development impact, and monitors development



progress and the level of compliance with the Development Plan. Additionally, The Malaysia Urban Observatory (MUO) collects, updates, standardises, and manages spatial data and information necessary for municipal trends. The Malaysia Urban Observatory (MUO) also reports on the sustainability achievements of the city. (MUO) has a significant role or responsibility in the implementation of this NPP-3 since 75 indicators have been developed to attain the desired results by 2040 in accordance with the planning objectives (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016).

### ***The Realisation of The National Liveability Index***

However, throughout the implementation of the process to actualise the country's liveability index, undesirable complications develop for individuals, families, society, and the government. The first difficulty is the nature of the individual, which manifests as antisocial behaviour, loss of identity, and lack of attachment to the community (Malek & Ibrahim, 2015). In relation to this, the existence of this problem leads the growth of a country or region to be less advanced and a decline in the quality of life of the people residing in that region, including a lack of physical quality. Those who commit vandalism, for instance, exhibit negative traits or characteristics that indicate they dislike where they live and cause them to destroy the environment, which will not only make the surrounding population unhappy but also reduce the liveability index of the country.

The Vandalism By-law 1994, which stipulates that anyone who commits vandalism will be fined no more than RM2,000 or imprisoned for no more than one year, or both (*Harian Metro*, 2021b), can assist the government in mitigating this problem. The goal of this regulation is to limit the incidence of vandalism in our country; yet, there are still those who continue to do this heinous act while remaining hidden from the public and the law. Aside from the substance of individual nature, the second issue is the lack of society's participation in voluntary activities, donations, etc (Ationg, Othman, Esa, Mohd Tamring, Hajimin & Hamid, 2021a). Self-involvement in these activities is not just for the individual's benefit, but also for the benefit of the community, and it generates a sense of love for other individuals, indicating that the individual has a caring disposition and desires to do good for the community without expecting a return or compensation. For instance, one of the volunteer-focused organisations is the Charity Voluntary Organisation in the state of Kedah, which is an organisation officially recognised with the Social Welfare Department (JKM).

The objective of this organisation is to encourage and facilitate persons who are willing to devote their time, energy and abilities to volunteer activities. To avoid a negative influence on their students, the school may conduct talks titled "Say No to Vandalism" and "Let's Volunteer Together" or teach the subjects of Civic Education, Moral Education, and Islamic Education to instil a love for the environment and concern for other communities in every student. In addition to the government and institutions carrying out their responsibilities, families must also play a role in the education of their children by educating them from a young age so that they grow up well-rounded and caring (Mohd Shah, Mokhtar, Othman, Yusoff, Esa, Ationg & Ramlie, 2021). Therefore, the entire community, family, public institutions, and even the government must use good values to prevent future generations from engaging in actions that would result in a decline or worsening of the liveability index of the country.

Attempting to achieve the national liveability index framework presents additional obstacles, one of which is consumer trends. This consumer trend is driven directly or indirectly by

globalisation issues affecting various domains, including the economic field, the technology field, the social field, the political field, the cultural field, and others (Ahmad, Hasan, Othman & Topimin, 2021). Moreover, Malaysia's Agenda 21, which is a 1992 proclamation with the goal of fostering development at the local level, and Agenda 21 both prioritise consumer trends, as this is one of the factors that is said to enhance the country's progress into a developed nation (Ahmad, Khalid & Pon, 2013). We cannot deny that the consumer is one of the variables in defining the prosperity of a place, the production of high-quality human capital, and as a social input in the economy via demand-related factors, reforms, etc. With this information, we may conclude that the consumption of resources per capita increases at a faster rate than the expansion of the global population, when there is an increase in the exploration and utilisation of natural resources. This creates pollution issues, and this consumer tendency directly contributes to an increase in solid trash.

To address this issue, steps such as programmes or campaigns have been launched, and activities such as the 3R practise are also stressed in the reuse of goods. However, 3R practise is utilised less frequently by the community since it is too tough to accomplish and they are too busy to do it. Due to the fact that many people do not want to exercise 3R practise, which is to reuse goods, the purchasing power of the people is large because they purchase the disposable goods, they desire without considering the recyclable items. The difficulty in implementing the next national liveability index framework is the education strategy. In this day of globalisation, there are many groups of individuals who disregard the practise of sustainability due to their increasingly materialistic lifestyle. As a result, the initial application in education has been adopted as one of the measures for developing and applying the nature of sensitivity in the community in order to be more sensitive to environmental sustainability for the sake of national development.

This is because education based on this theory is not a guide for creating a sustainable society. However, the aspect of community formation must be emphasised in the application of the concept of sustainable development in community life, and this can be accomplished by exposing students to this challenge in the classroom. In order to expose students to issues relating to this topic, it is necessary to execute education not only from a theoretical perspective, but also from a practical perspective (Marinsah, Abang Muis, Esa, Othman, Ramlie, Mokhtar & Yusoff, 2021). For non-formal education, parents or guardians provide instruction beginning in childhood. Parents or guardians should instil this liveability index-related information in their children at a young age through exposure and practise in their daily lives so that their children can grow up to be sensitive to liveability issues in our country. In addition, formal education is school-based education that includes the design of curriculum connected to the liveability index.

Education at the school increases their exposure to this issue since it encourages students to interact with one another, thereby enhancing cooperation between the school and the community in the formation of outstanding individuals. Therefore, the difference between formal education and informal education is that formal education is an education that is more directed towards the individual, is more independent, and can be achieved through serious teaching from the people around them, whereas informal education is in the form of a group that contributes to the development of a society with the capacity to cooperate with other societies (Marzuki, Abd Rahman, Kaspin, Jamal, Mohd Nor & Othman, 2021).

The final obstacle in implementing the national liveability index framework is the administrative issues of local governments. This difficulty relates to the establishment of long-term consumers due to the administrative difficulties of local governments. The absence of surveillance or monitoring by the officials responsible for ensuring that the atmosphere is pleasant, healthy, and safe is indicative of this issue. They have a very superficial understanding of environmental issues, as evidenced by the fact that the community throws rubbish around without being cautioned by the competent authorities. This demonstrates that increasing the number of officers to ensure a clean environment cannot be achieved, even if the government desires to do so. In addition, there is the issue of expanding jurisdiction and insufficient funds to increase the number of officers responsible for managing the state of the environment. This demonstrates that if officials do not do their duties, individuals will not change their lifestyle and will continue to engage in the same behaviours.

Aside from the problems and obstacles, there are also strategies for the implementation of the liveability index framework, including the use of mass media. The media have a responsibility to disseminate information regarding the liveability index, including questions such as why it was formed (*Harian Metro*, 2021a). In keeping with this, advertising that carry the message about the liveability index might also be presented throughout the broadcast. In addition, the usage of the internet in the present era makes sharing on the website easier for the increasing number of internet users. With this information, we can deduce that the primary purpose of the mass media is to communicate with users in the hope that the public will be more sensitive and concerned about the issue of the country's liveability index and will be able to deal with development changes in a country whose development is becoming increasingly advanced and rapid. Therefore, it has been demonstrated that the mass media has a role as an information provider and direct conduit to the community in disseminating information and education so that the community is aware of current issues.

### ***Well-Being & Sustainability of Life***

Liveability requires a more extensive urbanisation system. In reality, liveability in the context of the area encompasses a wide range of factors, including the local economy, the supply of community facilities, the provision of infrastructure facilities, and the leadership at the local level, among others. Not only in the context of the community, but also in the context of the metropolis, these are stated to be the factors of liveability. The factor of liveability is not only tied to the physical, but must also have spiritual elements such as safety, community, mutual aid, and a greater emphasis on health. In a general term, liveability is directly related to the well-being of the community. The well-being of life is crucial at all societal levels. According to Yusof, Ali and Kamarudin (2014), the well-being of life can be categorised into two groups: objective and subjective. Objective well-being refers to the externally observable aspects of an individual's existence, such as income, housing, health, and education.

As for subjective well-being, it is evaluated based on the pleasure and enjoyment of life felt by an individual, such as feeling pleased, being grateful for a decent job, having successful children, and belonging to a safe and happy household. In addition, he stated that the happiness of life is a subjective quality of life. This is because it is the pinnacle of both heart satisfaction and human decency. According to Othman, Yusoff, Abdul Hamid, Awang and Jupiter (2018), defines quality of life as the transformation of society and social systems from less satisfactory to more satisfactory situations. It includes a healthy lifestyle, self-improvement, access and freedom to acquire knowledge, and a level of life that exceeds the basic needs of individuals

and meets psychological needs in order to achieve a level of social well-being consistent with the national aspirations (Othman *et al.*, 2018). In this sense, liveability encompasses a variety of factors, including home ownership and urbanisation, among others.

Consequently, in order to achieve this liveability, a number of strategies must be employed. Among these methods is the provision of houses in suitable areas. In this instance, the housing that will be given must match the requirements, demands, and ability of the community to purchase a home, particularly for those with a moderate or low income (B40). Additionally, the type of home must be located in an area with adequate amenities, close to the place of employment, and easily accessible by public transportation. This simultaneously tries to reduce transit and subsistence expenses. As a result of the abundance of amenities, the urban area naturally attracts the majority of the population. Consequently, sustainable development plans must be implemented at the local level, with a focus on the regeneration of outmoded urban areas through various innovative initiatives to curb urban sprawl, reconstruct, or renovate existing housing areas in the city.

This is significant because this reconstruction and improvement programme can revitalise the city's underprivileged housing regions. Local Authorities (PBT) must ensure that housing construction not only prioritises the creation of new green spaces, but also implements redevelopment plans for existing areas to meet housing demand (*Sinar Harian*, 2022). Establishing housing committees in each state to formulate state-level housing policy and maintain a housing database is the following step in implementing liveability. Consequently, state governments are urged to form housing committees in their respective jurisdictions. This is due to the objective of solving the housing problem in a more organised manner. The National Housing Council has several primary duties, one of which is to design housing policies that are tailored to the needs of the local people, particularly the housing requirements and affordability level of the B40 and M40 groups residing in the city (*Sinar Harian*, 2022).

In addition, coordination of the housing supply supplied by various government agencies and commercial companies. Second, set policies for quality enhancement. In addition to reducing the imbalance between supply and demand for housing and the difference between market pricing and the capacity of buyers, the state Housing Board is also responsible for housing upkeep and the creation of a housing database to enable strong housing provision planning. The execution of this liveability can be done by expanding the number of inexpensive homes in metropolitan areas for the target group of B40 and M40 families (*Harian Metro*, 2021a). Consequently, it is vital to prioritise the development of mixed housing, such as inexpensive residences built in accordance with the land intensification model, which requires the identification of government land and historic urban districts beforehand.

This model will improve population density by promoting more efficient land, infrastructure, resource, and service utilisation. It is suggested to undertake this mixed housing development while fostering community harmony among low, middle, and high-income groups. The liveability will prioritise government quarters land, affordable historic housing estates, religious funds, and baitulmal land for mixed home development. In order to increase housing readiness for urban-dwelling target groups, thus, historic low-cost housing will be redeveloped as an affordable housing area. Additionally, waqf land and baitulmal land within the city can be developed for the construction of mixed housing. Consequently, the National Housing Department (JPN) or the State Housing Board must collaborate with the State Islamic Religious

Council to identify potential development sites. This means that the implementation of liveability can be achieved by the provision of housing for specified target groups that is also designed and equipped appropriately.

It is vital to provide housing that incorporates appropriate design and amenities for specific target groups, such as the disabled (OKU) and the elderly, to improve their quality of life (*Harian Metro*, 2022). Therefore, extra attention must be paid to the level of access to public facilities, the quality, location, and design of housing for this target group. The interior design of the house that will be constructed must allow the mobility of people with disability. In this way, people with disability will be able to live in a housing that is disabilities friendly. According to the Housing Planning Guidelines, housing for the disabled must be positioned on the bottom floor of a multi-storey building and meet specified requirements.

Implementing more planned development in enhancing the quality of housing and neighbourhoods in urban village areas, rural areas, and FELDA and FELCRA settlement zones (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016). Traditional villages must enhance the quality of their housing in order to become more systematic. A more organised community will also be able to retain its sociocultural and rural heritage. This will serve as a tourist attraction. As preparations begin for housing for the second generation of settlers, FELDA and FELCRA have been urged to expand the housing development area, whether in the existing organised village area or the surrounding area. For FELDA and FELCRA communities located on the city's outskirts, medium-low and low-density development is encouraged, and shared community facilities must be provided. This can help to increase the economic scale of rural and village communities as well as increase accessibility to high-quality community amenities.

By the year of 2040, it will be necessary to expand community needs such as amenities in line with population growth and the goal of achieving the quality and well-being of the community in this country. The provision of various types of amenities should satisfy the population's present needs. This includes the requirement in the design of community facilities, i.e. for adolescents, the elderly, and the disabled. Public spaces and public buildings must also be created to facilitate the use of these facilities by these target groups. Education and health facilities, particularly in rural areas such as Sabah and Sarawak, as well as the settlement of indigenous people in Peninsular Malaysia must be prioritised based on the established criteria (*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*, 2016).

Certain agencies should ensure the availability and quality of community facilities in cities and planned residential areas, such as health care, education, sports, and community neighbourhood facilities that are maintained and managed with public participation. Additionally, community facilities are planned to be of superior quality, unobstructed, and simple to maintain. Construction of community facilities in this context demands careful planning and design. This type of planning must take into account issues such as age gaps and cultural backgrounds. Providers of community facilities must prioritise accessibility, transparency, and eco-friendly design. A number of elements must be considered, including the accessibility design factor (OKU) that supports usage by the aged and impaired (*Harian Metro*, 2022).

Utilising rainwater harvesting systems, green roof systems, local waste management, and alternative energy sources such as solar systems will cut administration and maintenance

expenses. This is intended to ensure the well-being of the community, particularly the elderly and the disabled, so that it is easier for them to use the public facilities that meet the established criteria. The quality of education and healthcare facilities in rural communities must also be enhanced. The location must be determined for the purpose of educational development in rural areas in order to increase the number of students from rural areas, the interior of Sabah and Sarawak, and indigenous groups (Esa, Othman, Ationg & Mokhtar, 2021b). Educational facilities are essential, and they must include amenities like as dormitories, transportation, and more. In addition, it is necessary to determine an appropriate place for the goal of health development.

In a region where the population is growing, health is also an essential factor (Idrus, Hadi & Harman Shah, 2010). In order to improve primary health care services for indigenous people in Peninsular Malaysia, rural communities, and the interiors of Sabah and Sarawak, it is necessary to provide infrastructure amenities such as health clinics and hospitals. With the availability of health services in their vicinity, the health of the community would be more assured. Lastly, liveability can be improved by facilitating access to jobs and other economic factors (Idrus, Hadi & Harman Shah, 2010). The proximity of residential regions to areas with numerous employment prospects and business districts is advantageous for economic development, cities, and even communities. From an economic standpoint, the proximity of the given housing to the workplace will encourage more workers to participate in economic activity. This will simultaneously boost the population's economic participation rate.

Additionally, women, pensioners, members of the B40, and individuals with impairments have the possibility to join the support workforce. In addition, the proximity of workplaces will alleviate downtown traffic congestion. The sustainable development of the city core will include more green spaces and communal spaces. This is comparable to the establishment of small business centres that give employment in rural areas and can lessen the desire for rural residents to relocate to urban areas. All demographic groups will have equal employment possibilities in suburban and rural business districts. Several measures are required, including the improvement of infrastructure and networks for public transportation serving these core business districts.

### ***The Introduction of Malaysia's Housing Affordability Index (iDAM) in 2021***

It is well known that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) will oversee the introduction of Malaysia's Housing Affordability Index (iDAM) in 2021 (*Harian Metro*, 2021a). The primary purpose of this index is to assess the features of economic, social, and environmental prosperity. In addition, it addresses spiritual matters as well as physical and emotional wellness. For this index to be accurate, the evaluation of factors such as the poverty rate, the level of provision of affordable housing, the level of provision of community facilities, the level of preservation of forests and public parks, the quality of the environment, and the family and neighbourhood relationships of the residents are given a great deal of importance. Consequently, the Malaysian Liveability Index can contribute to the success of the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, meeting the aim of the 12th Malaysia Plan (RMK-12), which is "Prosperous, Inclusive, and Sustainable Malaysian Families."

The Liveability Index of Malaysia (iDAM) outlines five goals to be attained: prosperous and future-proof economic development, improving the quality of the environment, environmental conservation and safety assurance, empowering community harmony and prosperous families,

developing land use and natural resources sustainably and effectively, and providing inclusive infrastructure and support facilities. To comprehend this endeavour, we must first comprehend the definition of liveability, which is the capacity of a location to meet and satisfy all the standards necessary to make it suitable for human to live. This is to ensure the community's safety. By analysing the gathered facts and statistics, the Malaysian Liveability Index can be used to estimate the capacity of infrastructure and urban growth. The acquired data can be utilised for a variety of purposes, including the addition and expansion of safe living places and the improvement of existing infrastructure.

In addition, this index can serve as a reference for the government in attracting investment and creating an investor-friendly environment. This is the case since liveability is a crucial factor in modern times. In this regard, the nation must always be proactive and seek out fresh investment opportunities both within and beyond its borders. The development of soft infrastructure, including the improvement of human resources, R&D capabilities, and management processes, should be prioritised (Hamat & Che Nordin, 2012). Malaysian agencies with external investors can form broader joint ventures with foreign partners and explore targeted growth areas either internally or externally in a global environment characterised by rapid change and the proliferation of strategic alliances and networks among a number of international companies. Moreover, the application of this Malaysian Liveability Index (iDAM) can guarantee the safety of the local people.

If the area is in an inadequate condition, the KPKT must immediately carry out the duty of conserving the area in order to enhance the quality of the environment and ensure the public's safety. Next, this index can assist the KPKT in identifying regions suitable for residential development, ensuring that all Malaysians have access to pleasant, cheap housing and that no group is left behind. In regard to this, communal advancement is possible and can enhance the harmony of a family. The lack of housing for low-income individuals has resulted in the formation of slums in urban and rural locations. According to Othman, Mokhtar, Ationg & Abang Muis (2021e) illegal immigrants (PATI) have crossed the border into this country illegally due to several factors, namely high currently exchange, many job offers, Malaysia's strategic location. The presence of slum neighbourhoods with inadequate infrastructure has caused numerous problems for the urban environment, as well as negative side effects such as social symptoms, problems with children's education, crime, and narcotics, among others. In addition to concerns such as increasing urban population expansion, the collection of data from this Malaysian Liveability Index (iDAM) has increased the requirement for infrastructure and utility facilities that cannot be supported by current facilities.

There are still difficulties with the low level of services and the inability to meet the needs of the population in terms of the overall quality of services supplied by small towns. In addition, this rapid population growth necessitates a rise in new construction areas, resulting in "urban sprawl" (Yusoff, Talib & Pon, 2011). This condition has led to the existence of environmentally sensitive zones, major agricultural regions, and other unsuitable regions. Apart from that, noncompliance with the prepared development plan has contributed to the emergence of this issue. This condition has resulted in a variety of urban issues, including environmental pollution, traffic congestion, the emergence of "brownfield" areas, the loss of metropolitan areas' attractiveness, and the decline of infrastructural quality (Yusoff, Talib & Pon, 2011).

## Recommendations and Summary

The government will continue to realise and implement rural development through continued efforts. The government desires to increase the income and quality of life of rural areas. Therefore, in order to increase the income and quality of life in rural areas, the government must develop all areas that are less prominent than those in urban areas. In the field of education, for example, rural and urban communities must be comparable. This is because the government can use this action to bridge the gap between urban and rural people. Furthermore, rural development must be as appealing, innovative, and profitable to rural communities as it is to metropolitan communities. For instance, the growth of the tourism industry in rural areas. The expansion of the tourism industry in rural areas has brought numerous advantages to rural communities.

Rural communities should possess competitive traits comparable to those of metropolitan communities, particularly in terms of information mastery, strategic planning, problem-solving skills, and success confidence. It is widely anticipated that the government's rural development initiatives will serve as a catalyst for the country's complete physical growth towards becoming a developed nation. Therefore, in order to reach this goal, rural communities must shift from a mentality of relying on subsidies to those who are competitive without government assistance. Rural development is crucial for preventing rural populations from being excluded and left behind in comparison to urban communities. Additionally, rural development is essential so that rural communities are no longer viewed as a passive population. This is also essential for rural communities to safeguard their future, particularly for the next generation. Therefore, all parties, including the government and the rural community, must always make improvements.

In addition, cooperation between all parties is essential so that rural development can be carried out without difficulty and in a continual manner. For a country's well-being and peace, the government should not hesitate to make any necessary reforms to encourage liveable development. It is believed that the third NPP can be utilised to translate to liveable, based on what can be gathered from this paper. A nation's viability is also crucial, and obviously, future generations will value this greatly. Just consider what will happen to the following generation if liveable development fails in the future. Naturally, they cannot understand that their world has been destroyed, and naturally, they are unable to have a peaceful and tranquil life. In fact, the only world that will be visible to future generations will be one that is devoid of trees and comprised entirely of skyscrapers. Who would want their children to live in a terrifying and impoverished situation?

This issue needs to be treated seriously and cared for. Such an incident is unlikely to occur with this third NPP, but the government is nevertheless implementing it gradually to prevent failure. The government must immediately begin carrying out and implementing what is essential and beneficial for the nation and society. Malaysia's difficulties with economic, social, political, and other inequalities have been addressed by the government through a number of initiatives. The government is truly highly concerned with the needs and desires of the people, but its insistence on prioritising certain aspects above others causes it to miss other things. It is reported that implementing agencies and the government are attempting to discuss this liveability and holding several meetings. In short, all parties, whether government or non-government, are accountable for preserving the rights of the community, ensuring their safety, and granting the citizens' desires to live in a liveable environment.



This liveability can be successfully achieved by producing a country that is always clean, cheery, safe, and aesthetically acceptable to residents and tourists in terms of socioeconomic attractiveness, economic growth, and others. Moreover, during the implementation phase or process of realising the efforts of the liveability index framework, it is clear that all parties in the country, including individuals, the community, and the government, play a significant role in achieving this effort. Consequently, all parties must play their respective responsibilities in achieving the effort to improve the community's knowledge base, today and in the future. With the roles played by each party, the collection of information and data from components such as human resources, economic activities, and socio-cultural aspects of a country's society may be done more readily and methodically.

Furthermore, it is impossible to actualise the liveability index framework without the aid of methods like education and mass media techniques, which aid in disseminating the government's efforts and instilling this information in people in order to make them more compassionate and sensitive. To achieve the goals of the nation's liveability index framework, three processes have been discussed: a high-quality living environment that satisfies the needs and desires of the community, an atmosphere between communities that has liveability characteristics, and community freedom in self-involvement. Therefore, the five goals identified by the Malaysian liveability index can be fulfilled with the assistance of all parties in assessing the success of community development in a sustainable manner in order to achieve advanced urbanisation in terms of cooperation, productivity, and advancement as well as by identifying all the problems, obstacles, and solutions encountered in the country's efforts to realise them. Only if it is well thought out and systematic will the liveability that is implemented be able to be applied.

All relevant parties, including PKPT, PBT, and associated parties, must collaborate in order to successfully distribute their different roles in the implementation of liveability in Malaysia. As a result, in order for the planned actions to go as intended, the PBT, PKPT, and other parties participating in the implementation of liveability must cooperate with one another and continually monitor progress. The goals of the implementation of liveability will be easier to fulfil if the parties work well together. A community's well-being, its basic needs, and the availability of all necessary infrastructure in terms of health, education, the economy, social life, and many other areas are also prioritised in the concept of liveability. Liveability does not only emphasise aspects of home ownership or affordable housing. Overall, it can be inferred from this study that it will be difficult to adopt liveability in Malaysia.

In order to meet the community's need for inexpensive housing, it also costs a lot to integrate liveability. In connection with that, Malaysia's implementation of liveability encounters a number of problems and difficulties. Without the assistance of other parties, the implementation of liveability will also be challenging. This is allegedly the case because every party involved in the effective implementation of liveability in Malaysia has a huge responsibility and each has a crucial role to play in addition to obligations that they must meet. The parties involved in Malaysia's implementation of liveability will work together to make it easier to complete all development, construction, upgrading, and other related tasks. The attempt to adopt this liveability will be challenging to implement if the parties involved do not cooperate in carrying out their duties and obligations.

To sum, to ensure that Malaysia's liveability level is at the highest level in terms of safety, the physical level of infrastructure, the environment, and the community's economy, it is necessary to intensify the usage of Malaysia's Liveability Index (iDAM). Local authorities must provide sufficient maintenance arrangements to ensure that the built-up physical form of the city is properly maintained by the populace to ensure the long-term viability of the developed infrastructure. Ultimately, the government will focus on people-centred development projects and will continue to provide the greatest benefits to the people in order to achieve a high level of well-being. Every aspect of human life requires happiness, including progress, humanity, politics, the economy, and social dimensions. Making a concerted effort to ensure that Malaysia's housing conditions are suitable is a proactive step toward ensuring that there are no socially disenfranchised groups, such as guaranteeing that the poor have access to affordable housing options. Malaysia is hoped to live in peace and harmony as a result of this effort.

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