

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE IMPACTS OF SPORTS FACILITIES ON
URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA: A
CASE STUDY OF THE SPORTS FACILITIES
PROVIDED BY KUALA LUMPUR CITY HALL
AND BUKIT JALIL NATIONAL SPORTS
COMPLEX**

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for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

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Author's Declaration

I declare that the work of this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

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ABSTRACT

Currently there is tremendous interest in sport in Malaysia, although sport has only been considered as an industry in the last ten years. Sports facilities have improved rapidly, especially after the country hosted the 16th Commonwealth Games in 1998. Internationally, sports facilities are viewed as playing a new role in cities as catalysts for urban development or to regenerate decaying area of the cities. Such a role also provides better justification for public investment, since the provision of sports facilities requires huge amounts of money for construction, ancillary needs and maintenance. The increase in the amount of public money being spent on sports facilities in Malaysia and the proliferation of sports facilities in the country necessitate an investigation into the wider issue of potential benefits related to the development of sports facilities.

The aim of this research was to study some existing sports facilities in Malaysia and to examine the physical, economic and social impacts they have had on their surrounding areas. The research began with an overview of the main sports facilities at state level in Malaysia before focusing on selected sports facilities in Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory; namely, the Bukit Jalil National Sports Complex and four selected facilities developed by Kuala Lumpur City Hall, one in each of the four management zones in the city. The study first examined the impacts of sports facilities as perceived by residents in Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory in general, before surveying each of the four case study sites. The National Sports Complex at Bukit Jalil was examined in greater detail, with special attention paid to the various impacts the Complex has had on urban development in the Bukit Jalil area.

The findings revealed that there is a new trend in sports facilities construction in Malaysia which started in the mid-1990s. This has been for hosting events, to develop harmony and unite people in line with the Vision 2020 nation-building program and to create a sports culture in the country. The required sports facilities are decided according to urban hierarchies, the National Sports Policy provided by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the budget allocation for sports through five-year plans. While the Federal Government provides money for the construction of sports facilities, State and Local Governments each provide land and layout, respectively. The results of the residents' perceptions survey were able to demonstrate the impacts and intangible benefits of the sports facilities through the case studies, using the contingent valuation method. Findings from the case study of the Bukit Jalil National Sports Complex indicated that the provision of a sports facility alone was not enough to spur development. Sports facilities must be integrated into the local development strategy with proper planning. It is envisaged that the findings of this research will contribute to improved integration of sports facilities with the surrounding urban areas. It is also hoped that the study will provide a new perspective and new approach to realising the potential benefits of sports facilities development in Malaysia. Finally, the research adds more knowledge to the literature on sports facilities development, especially in Malaysia.

Keywords: Sports facilities, impacts, urban development, Kuala Lumpur, Bukit Jalil.

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