

A REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR MALAYSIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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ABSTRACT

Currently, there are wide-ranging policies available on sustainable development from the Government of Malaysia. There is a need for a literature to be used as the point of departure for sustainable development discussion. This paper aims to serve as a one-stop centre for easy-referencing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) policies in Malaysia. The paper first presented the background on sustainable development and Malaysian governance structure to provide context. Further along, the paper summarises the policy framework on Sustainable Development Goals under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's ambit with particular attention to local governments. Findings showed that the Malaysian government do not lack the effort and desire to achieve SDGs. Sustainable development concept has been embroidered into numerous policy and governance framework. Local governments should treat policies as a tool and means of SDGs implementation at their municipalities. As public policy undergoes constant changes and modification, having a sound foundation on public policy can lead to better judgement and decision making.

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INTRODUCTION

Sustainability has been the core of Malaysia's development approach, and many policies have been established and continuously evolved and renewed to reflect that. The purpose of this paper is to identify and review the current Malaysian government policies regarding sustainable development under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's ambit.

The benefit of this paper is two-pronged. Firstly, it serves as a point of departure on Malaysia's Sustainable Development Goals policy regarding local governments. Secondly, it could be used to inform and familiarise those who are new to the field regarding SDGs policies in Malaysia. Thus, this paper aims to be the ABCs of SDGs policies related to Malaysian local governments.

This paper is organised into six parts. After the introduction section, the second section deals with the method used in this research. The third section highlights an overview of sustainable development. The fourth section accentuated the overview of governments in Malaysia. The fifth section underlined Sustainable Development Goals governance and policy framework. The sixth and final section deals with the discussion before concluding the paper.

METHODOLOGY

According to Jesson, Matheson, and Lacey (2011), a literature review is a desk-based research method which critically describes and appraises what is already known about a topic using secondary sources. From several approaches literature review, this paper applies a narrative approach that involves using text to describe a background (Fink 2014) and a narrative writing style to summarise a subject's current state (Jesson, Matheson, and Lacey 2011). A narrative review also explores heterogeneity descriptively, rather than statistically (Petticrew and Roberts 2006).

This research aims to identify and review all available policy documents within the ambit of the Ministry of Housing and Local Governments (MHLG) for local governments in Malaysia. A policy is

defined as a documented commitment or a plan to pursue a course of action outlining how it will be implemented through program or activities (Bullen and Lyne 2006).

The search process commenced with a literature search through the MHLG, PLANMalaysia, Local Governments Department and Prime Minister’s Department official websites. The search identified nine related policies or policy cluster. A preliminary assessment was done to identify the policies’ implementation jurisdiction to ensure that the policies selected were in line with the research aim. The analysis was performed using content analysis, and the breadth of information available meant that only vital themes could be extracted from the policies specifically: 1) background of the policy, 2) policy aim and 3) policy framework.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015 the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), comprising 17 goals and 169 targets. It serves as the overarching framework to guide global and national development until 2030 and detailed in the outcome document, Transforming Our World, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN 2015). The most frequently cited definition of sustainable development has been coined in the Brundtland Report where it mentioned that sustainable development is a development that meets the present’s needs without compromising future generations’ ability to meet their own needs (WCED 1987).



Figure 1. The 17 Goals of Sustainable Development Goals

(Source: UN, 2015)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN MALAYSIA

There are three levels of government administrative structure in Malaysia. After the federal and state governments, local governments represent the government's third tier. The local governments are administered by the Local Government Act 1976 (Act 171) in Peninsular Malaysia. These laws regulate and uniform the local governments in Malaysia and compel federal, state and local governments to work with each other and synchronise policies and programmes without operating in isolation.

The MHLG is the principal agency responsible for coordinating local governments' practices in Malaysia (Osman et al. 2014). MHLG's primary role is to regulate policies, provide advisory services on land planning, manage development and conservation, and regulate solid waste management for the federal government, state governments, and local authorities. The Ministry also assists and guides local authorities in providing municipal services, socio-economic and recreational facilities. Finally, the Ministry also implemented urban resilience programmes and activities and public participation in governing local governments (KPKT 2020b).

The local governments are positioned as a state function under the State List (List II, Items 4-5) of Schedule 9 of the Federal Constitution, except for Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan Federal Territories, which fall under List I, Item 6, placing it directly under Federal authority (Malaysia 1957). Since the Federal Constitution listed the local governments under the state list, MHLG can only exercise indirect authority over the local government by other means, for example, through the annual federal statutory grant contributions. The Annual Grant is the Federal Government's contributions channelled to the local governments through state government. Annual grant contributions are made under the provisions of the State Grants (Maintenance of Local Authorities) Act 1981 (Act 245) and Article 109(3) of the Federal Constitution. The allocation is intended to help local governments manage their administration and support local governments in fulfilling their responsibilities in providing quality services and meeting the local community's needs (JKT 2020).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK IN MALAYSIA

The government of Malaysia has published a considerable amount of policies on sustainability. In the sections that follow, the Malaysia sustainable development framework discussion will be tabled and divided into the governance framework and the policy framework.

Malaysia SDGs Governance Framework

At the apex of the SDGs governance structure is the National SDG Council (NSDGC), chaired by Malaysia's Prime Minister, established in 2016. Its members comprised of government agencies and representatives from the private sector, academia and civil society organisations. The NSDGC's purpose is to plan, monitor, and provide leadership on SDGs implementation.

The NSDGC is supported by the National Steering Committee (NSC), chaired by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) Director-General. The NSC's establishment aims to draw Malaysia's SDG Roadmap, monitor the implementation of Malaysia's SDG efforts, identify and solve issues, and report upward to the National SDG Council.

In turn, the NSC is responsible for monitoring five SDG Cluster Working Committees (CWCs) placed under its purview. Each of the CWCs concentrates on one of the five dimensions: well-being, inclusivity, human capital, the environment and natural resources, and economic growth. The CWCs are tasked with identifying each SDGs indicators, developing and implementing programmes, and reporting progress to the NSC. A Section Head from EPU leads each CWC, and its membership includes government agencies, civil society, the private sector, academics, United Nations agencies and youth representatives. Seventeen Task Forces were also set up, one for each of the SDG goals and placed under the Working Cluster Groups. The Task Forces are led by Directors or Deputy Directors of the EPU (Misran 2016).

Malaysia SDGs Policy Framework

Malaysia has long incorporated sustainability concepts into its development policies. The following sections will outline nine current government policies. These policies are the medium of the interaction between the federal, state and local governments where the shared responsibilities of land use planning and development control at the local level are crucial to SDGs' achievement.

National Urbanisation Policy

The National Urbanisation Policy (NUP) was established in 2006 to guide and coordinate the country's urban planning and development to be more efficient and systematic and address environmental conservation and urban resilience issues to create a liveable environment and handle the increase in the urban population by 2020, balancing social, economic and physical development. The Second National Urbanisation Policy (NUP2) then was established in 2016 to continue and advance efforts that have not yet been achieved or fully implemented during NUP. The NUP aims to, 1) develop a planned, quality, progressive and sustainable city, 2) foster a competitive urban economy, 3) encourage social development through a conducive environment, 4) eradicate urban poverty, 5) strengthen the planning, implementation and monitoring system, and 6) strengthen urban management and administrative institutions (PLANMalaysia 2006).

The implementation of the NUP was compartmentalised into six thrusts, specifically, creating, 1) efficient and sustainable urban development, 2) resilient, dynamic and competitive urban economic development, 3) integrated and efficient urban transportation system, 4) quality infrastructure, utility and urban services, 5) a unique, conducive and liveable urban environment, 6) effective urban governance (PLANMalaysia 2006). Compared to NUP, the NUP2 streamlines its principles with the objective and strategic actions to ensure that all implementation agencies and organisations understand the direction of NUP2. The five principles of NUP2 are, 1) good urban governance, 2) liveable city, 3) competitive urban economy, 4) equitable and inclusive urban development, 5) green development and a clean environment (PLANMalaysia 2016).

According to Somasundram et al. (2018), the NUP was established within a comprehensive and integrated framework, to deliver quality urban services that would ensure safer, systematic, modern and attractive towns. The NUPs highlight the importance of strategy, action, decision-making, policy, and implementation in creating sustainable urbanisation. It outlines a hierarchy for conurbations where each contains a core city centre with satellite towns (Hasan and Nair 2014). It adopted a classification between national, regional, sub-regional, state and district growth centres, major and minor settlement centres and towns and constituted the foundation for urban services planning (Grunsven and Benson 2020).

Malaysia Smart City Framework

The Malaysia Smart City Framework (MSCF) is a national framework that serves as a guide and reference to local governments, state governments, federal ministries and agencies, industry players, academicians, and other stakeholders in holistically develop Malaysia smart cities. The MSCF was established considering the rising importance of designing and implementing smart cities development in Malaysia. The policy was created under the premise that smart cities can provide solutions to urban issues, thereby enhancing the quality of life of urbanites. The MSCF was also created to meet national and global agendas particularly the SDGs, ensuring that Malaysia is keeping pace with the global trends in urban development, promoting digital economy and aspiring to be on par with other global cities.

The MSCF is commanded by the Smart City Executive Committee (SCEC) who reports directly to the NCLG. SCEC is supported by Smart City Technical Committee who oversees the implementation of MSCF under three clusters: the pilot projects under ASEAN Smart Cities Network, Technical Experts Group from 15 agencies, and 154 local governments (KPKT 2020a).

The MSCF aims to address urban challenges by spearheading the smart city development in Malaysia across sixteen cross-cutting sub-policies summarised into five themes by Lim et al. (2020) namely 1) governance reform, 2) city system, 3) sustainability or resource efficiency or cybersecurity, 4) digital innovation or infrastructure or data or economic growth, and 5) social inclusion or empowerment or human capital. Thus, it

can be arguably summarised that the themes are consistent with achieving the SDGs through digital transformation in urban areas.

The MSCF listed the smart city components as a smart economy, smart living, smart environment, smart people, smart government, smart mobility and smart digital infrastructure. Thirty-six strategies are outlined under the smart city components, where one or more initiatives support each strategy. MSCF also contains 92 indicators to measure the achievements and impact of smart city implementation.

National Housing Policy

The National Housing Policy (NHP) 2018-2025 aims to guide and drive the country's housing sector through systematic and efficient housing planning, development and management to generate sustainable, habitable, quality, inclusive, and affordable housing. NHP is intended to map out housing policies and action plans for the period 2018-2025. It serves as a national framework to steer housing development at the federal and state levels and placating housing sector demands and needs. NHP is a comprehensive housing policy and ensures cities' development and economically viable conurbations (JPN 2018). Subsequently, the Affordable Housing Policy (AHP) was launched in 2019 as a sub-policy designed to outline requirements, critical criteria, prices and guidelines for constructing affordable housing developed by the federal and state government or the private sector. The sustainability concept in affordable housing is enshrined in 17 requirements that need to be considered to achieve affordable housing.

There are six objectives of the AHP. Firstly, it seeks to uniform affordable housing construction policies among players in the housing sector. Secondly, it aims to provide sensible and appropriate affordable housing policies align with the housing market growth. Thirdly, it encourages the public and private sectors to build an affordable home that is cost-effective and time-saving to construct. Furthermore, it pushes affordable housing construction to ensure that a qualified household can own a house. In addition, it outlines the requirements and characteristics of sustainable, habitable and safe housing construction to improve residents' quality of life. Finally, it seeks to reduce the affordable housing construction cost without reducing the quality of housing, public facilities, and the environment (JPN

2019).

National Solid Waste Management Policy

The solid waste management policy framework involves a spiderweb of regulations. These regulations involved documents such as the National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management, Waste Minimisation Master Plan, National Solid Waste Management Policy, Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 and Malaysia Plans. This section will attempt to explain the interplay between these regulations.

The National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management (NSPSWM) was created in 2005 to provide an institutional and regulatory framework to federalise and privatise the solid waste management in Malaysia (MHLG 2005). The six strategies and eleven recommendations highlighted in the document reflected the changing landscape of solid waste management from previously centred around municipalities to one that is fixated on the federal government.

The Waste Minimization Master Plan (WMMP) was established in 2006 to underline vision, strategies, guidelines, action plans and stakeholders' roles for the federal government, local authorities and pilot projects to minimise solid waste disposed of in Malaysia (Agamuthu and Victor 2011). The vision of the WMMP is to realise a Material Cycle Society, where waste minimisation activities are systemised and sufficiently enrooted in the people, government and private sector's conduct. WMMP was created after a study done by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from 2004 to 2006. WMMP reaffirmed Malaysia's dedication to minimising the amount of solid waste disposed of by reintroducing the 3Rs that stand for Reduce, Recover, and Recycle. The 3Rs programme was initially adopted during the 8th Malaysia Plan in 2001. Subsequently, MHLG launched the 3Rs program in that same year and declared November 11th every year as National Recycling Day.

The National Solid Waste Management Policy (NSWMP) was established in 2006 to create a comprehensive, integrated, cost-effective, sustainable and community-accepted solid waste management system that emphasises environmental conservation, affordable technology and public

health. The NSWMP also has provisions for 3Rs where the solid waste management is based on a waste management hierarchy that prioritises waste reduction through the 3Rs before intermediate treatment and final disposal (KPKT 2016). According to Agamuthu and Victor (2011), the NSWMP forms the basis for solid waste management in Malaysia in terms of its objectives, key thrusts and strategic initiatives.

In addition to these three policies, Malaysia also enacted the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act (Act 672) in 2007. The 10th Malaysia Plan acknowledged that solid waste is one of Malaysia's three major environmental problems (EPU 2010). Following that, Act 672 was amended, enhancing the institutional structure and coordination among relevant ministries and agencies. By 2015, mandatory waste segregation at the source was fully enforced under Act 672.

In terms of institutional governance, the local government is responsible for providing public cleaning and waste disposal services. However, Act 672 gives the federal government power to negotiate and take over solid waste management from local governments, consistent with NSPSWM's strategy to develop the necessary legal and institutional framework promptly. In order to manage and facilitate the transition, the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Department and the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation were established to replace local authorities and its respective concessionaires in managing solid waste (Phun et al. 2017).

National Cleanliness Policy

The MHLG introduced the National Cleanliness Policy (NCP) in 2019. The NCP is an initiative to make Malaysia a clean country and create a community that practises cleanliness to ensure the well-being and sustainability of the people. The NCP is monitored and reports directly to the NCLG at the federal level, the State Action Council at the state level, and the District Action Council at the district or municipality level.

The NCP has four goals. Firstly, to raise awareness and to adopt the practice of cleanliness in society. Secondly, it aims to increase the cleanliness of the surroundings and the sustainability of the environment. Thirdly, to

promote waste-to-money programmes for a circular economy. Finally, to enhance governance and regulation to increase performance, effectiveness and integrity (KPKT 2019). Five corresponding policy clusters were also emphasised to guide the implementation of NCP, namely 1) awareness of cleanliness, 2) environmental sustainability, 3) circular economy, 4) governance and enforcement, and 5) quality and skilled human capital.

National Community Policy

The MLHG established the National Community Policy (NCP) in 2018. This policy aims to empower the community in residential areas with a sense of belonging and responsibility towards shared properties, facilities and spaces, to create a caring, cooperative and respectful community that is responsive towards community issues, cultivate strategic partnerships among the community, public sector, private sector and NGOs in community development, and produce more leaders and volunteers from the community. The implementation of NCP focuses on eight clusters, namely 1) infrastructure and maintenance, 2) health, environment and cleanliness, 3) safety, 4) education and skills, 5) concern towards vulnerable groups, 6) entrepreneurship, 7) social services, and 8) sports and recreation.

The NCP also provides a platform named the Community Consensus Office (CCO) to facilitate and connect the community with the government agencies, private sectors and NGOs. CCO acts as a mediator between the MHLG and the community to channel issues and suggest programmes while conveying feedback to the community.

Through this policy, the MHLG wants to build the spirit of competitiveness and unity that will allow community members to live in a conducive environment, to encourage communities to be active in keeping their surroundings clean and safe that have high morals and civic consciousness; that practice culture of mutual advancement for everyone's benefit (KPKT 2018).

Malaysian Urban Indicators Network (MURNInets)

MURNInets is a system that tracks the sustainability level of an urban area by using a set of urban indicators operated by the Federal Department

of Town and Country Planning Peninsular Malaysia (PLANMalaysia), Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia. After research on MURNInets began in 1998, six municipalities were chosen as pilot projects to implement MURNInets in 2002. The number of local governments participated in MURNInets were added in stages (Shamsuddin and Abdul Rashid 2013), and currently, all local government in Malaysia implement MURNInets at their municipalities.

The objectives of MURNInets are three-pronged; to determine the level of sustainability for each town in Malaysia, identify the strength and weaknesses of a town, and suggest improvements to upgrade the level of sustainability. MURNInets was also established to evaluate present urban condition, effects of development and suggest the opportunity to upgrade sustainability level. MURNInets measures a city's sustainability based on the eleven planning sectors divided into 56 indicators, later reduced to 40 indicators in 2010.

In 2017, the system was reviewed and enhanced and subsequently renamed MURNInets 2.0. It was done in line with various urban sustainability indicators' changes at the international level (PLANMalaysia 2020a) and to keep tabs with emerging issues of urbanisation and sustainability. MURNInets 2.0 includes six dimensions, divided into 22 themes and 43 indicators. Data collection responsibility is shared between the local governments and PLANMalaysia. Out of the 43 indicators, 27 indicators for data preparation involved actions by the MURNInets PBT Operations Center (POM PBT), and 16 indicators are for actions by the State MURNInets Operations Center (POMN), PLANMalaysia.

MURNInets can be used to assess the outcomes of implementing a programme (Filzani Illia, Aisyah, and Dasimah 2019). Local governments could use MURNINets as a tool to uncover areas of improvements in its municipalities. SDGs programmes could be implemented, monitored and assessed through MURNInets to assist the localisation of SDGs.

Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172)

The Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172) is legislation for regulating land use planning in Malaysia. Act 172 was enacted to

standardised planning machinery, including the preparations of development plans. It also establishes the National Physical Planning Council (NPPC) and ensures effective, efficient and coherent town and rural planning system to achieve sustainable development. It provides spatial focus to social, economic and sectoral policies and provides state and local planning frameworks (Bello and Ainul Jaria 2018).

Planning matters are under the concurrent list, where both the federal and state governments are responsible. PLANMalaysia is the agency responsible for formulating and administering all national policies relating to town and country planning at the federal level while local governments function as local planning authority locally. PLANMalaysia has offices at the state-level which serve as an advisory body to the state governments in Peninsular Malaysia.

Other significant features of Act 172 are establishing a hierarchical development plan system, developing a control system, and establishing the State Planning Committee and Appeals Board. The act was amended in 1995 and 2001 to lay down environmental preservation rules for planning purposes, such as conservation of hilly land and topographical features to stress the importance of environmental sustainability. Another example that features alignment with SDGs is public participation in development provision, stated in Sections 9, 12A, 13 and 14 (Omar and Leh 2009).

Act 172 required plans formulated at various spatial and administrative levels to ensure effective planning in development plans. The hierarchy of the development plans is five-tiered, where the NPP operated at the federal level, the Regional Plan at a region involving two or more states, the Structure Plan at a state level, the Local Plan at the municipality level and the Special Area Plan deals with an area within a district's boundary (Yaakup et al. 2005; Bello and Ainul Jaria 2018). The following sub-sections would give a background on each tier of the development plans.

National Physical Plan

The National Physical Plan (NPP) is the anchor of Malaysia's development planning agenda. It outlines a written statement on the strategic policies formulation to determine the country's physical development's

general directions and trends. The NPP aims to 1) provide overall policies for physical development planning, 2) strengthen the existing national planning system to be more systematic, effective, and efficient, 3) coordinate the country's various planning agencies and authorities at the national, state and local levels 4) be the basis for lower-tier physical development plans, and 5) improve the national plan by adding a spatial dimension to national economic policies (Kassim and Islam 2006; PLANMalaysia 2020b). The NPP contains three thrusts, namely: dynamic urban and rural growth, spatial sustainability and resilience to climate change and building inclusive and liveable communities.

National Physical Plan 2 is the product of the review undertaken on NPP. The review was done to ensure the national spatial planning policies and strategies remain up-to-date and relevant to the fast-changing economic, social, physical, and technological changes (Johar 2007). The NPPC oversees the administration of NPP. There are two main differences between NPP and NPP2. Firstly, the concept of Selective Concentration in the NPP focuses more on urban development, especially conurbation. Secondly, the Concentrated Decentralisation concept in the NPP2 advocates a more balanced development focusing on selected locations in the growth corridor, not only on conurbation.

A Regional Plan is a tool for managing conurbations' growth and development. It contains spatial development strategies for a balanced dispersion of development and an integrated infrastructural framework. Section 6A (Part IIA) of Act 172 requires establishing a Regional Planning Committee (RPC) for a region in an area consisting of two or more states. One of RPC's primary functions is to prepare a Regional Plan, as stated in Sub-Section 6A(5b), Act 172. There are two Regional Planning levels: 1) Regional Plan for the National Economic Corridor Region, and 2) Regional Plan for Conurbation. National Economic Corridor Region's role is to enhance economic development opportunities for states experiencing slow development growth and raise the rural population's living standards and quality of life. Meanwhile, the Regional Plan for Conurbation focuses mainly on coordinating urban services and establishing uniform guidelines and standards for an effective and efficient urban environment (TCPA 1976; PLANMalaysia 2020c).

The Structure Plan is a written statement on general policies and proposals related to land development and use, covering social, economic, physical and environmental aspects. It describes state-level policies and strategic plans concerning the growth and land use in urban and rural areas, including steps to enhance the physical environment, connectivity, traffic management, well-being, socio-economy, economic growth and sustainable development. Structure Plan is done in compliance with Part III, Sections 8 to 11, Act 172. The Structure Plan is prepared by PLANMalaysia's State Director and approved by the State Planning Committee under a state's authority. However, the NPPC is notified during the entire process of a Structure Plan. (TCPA 1976).

A Local Plan contains a map and written statement that outlines the Local Planning Authority's proposals for development and land use activities within the borders of the local government area. It explains and translates government policies and plans for land development into a detailed physical form locally. These plans also contain local government's proposal on environmental protection, natural topography conservation, open spaces creation, building facade preservation and beautification, traffic systems' improvement, landscaping, land-use zoning, development density, building height, and plot ratio. Local Plan is drawn according to Sections 12 to 16A of Part III of Act 172. It is prepared by the Local Planning Authority or the State Director of PLANMalaysia and approved by the State Planning Committee (TCPA 1976; Yaakup et al. 2005).

Special Area Plan is a more detailed proposal than Local Plan that provides concrete recommendations for intervention in the local government area deemed suitable for special treatment. Its preparation and enforcement are similar to Local Plans. The Special Area Plan is prepared in compliance with the provisions of Sections 16B I (ii) and (iii) of Act 172 (TCPA 1976).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This paper has shown that sustainable development has been inserted into numerous policy framework. The institutional framework has been set-up within the government's three tiers to plan, coordinate, implement, and monitor its implementation. However, these policies co-existed, interlinked

and sometimes overlapped with each other. Therefore, each policy should not be read in isolation but must be understood as part of Malaysia’s ambition to become a high-income nation sustainably. Local governments should respond to the sustainable development issues by treating policies as a tool and means of SDGs localisation at their municipalities. Table 1 summarises the policies discussion mentioned above.

Table 1. Summary of Sustainable Development Goals related policies under the purview of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and Local Governments

Policy / Legislation	Description	Related SDG
National Urbanisation Policy	A policy to guide and coordinate the country's urban planning and development to be more efficient and systematic.	SDG8 SDG11 SDG13 SDG17
Malaysia Smart City Framework	A national framework that serves as a guide and reference for stakeholders to sustainably plan and develop smart cities.	SDG9 SDG11
National Housing Policy Affordable Housing Policy	NHP is a policy for planning, growing and managing the country's housing sector sustainably. AHP is a sub-policy that outlined requirements, criteria, prices and guidelines for constructing affordable housing.	SDG11
National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management Waste Minimisation Master Plan National Solid Waste Management Policy Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007	A cluster of policies that provide an institutional and regulatory framework to federalise and privatise solid waste management to minimise solid waste disposed by creating a sustainable solid waste management system and promoting a circular economy.	SDG11 SDG12
National Cleanliness Policy	A policy to promote and turn Malaysia into a clean country and create a community that practises cleanliness to ensure livability and sustainability.	SDG11
National Community Policy	A policy that empowers the community with a sense of responsibility towards public amenities by creating a caring, cooperative and respectful community responsive to issues, cultivating partnerships among stakeholders that allow community members to inhabit a livable environment.	SDG11
Malaysian Urban Indicators Network (MURNInets)	A system that tracks the sustainability level of an urban area by using a set of urban indicators.	SDG11 SDG17

Town and Country Planning Act 1976	Key legislation enacted to regulate and standardise land use planning machinery through coherent town and rural planning system to achieve sustainable development.	SDG11
National Physical Plan National Physical Plan 2 Regional Plan Structure Plan Local Plan Special Area Plan	<p>A cluster of hierarchical policies outlines the strategic policies to determine the general directions and trends of the nation's physical development. The subsequent spatial tiers are as follow:</p> <p>Region: A tool for managing conurbations' development that contains spatial development strategies for a balanced dispersion of growth with an integrated infrastructural framework.</p> <p>State: A state-level policy, strategic plans and proposals concerning land development and use in urban and rural areas covering social, economic, physical and environmental aspects.</p> <p>District: A map and written statement that outlines the Local Planning Authority's proposals for development and land use activities within a local government area's borders.</p> <p>Special Area: A detailed proposal that provides concrete recommendations for intervention in an area deemed suitable for special treatment.</p>	SDG8 SDG9 SDG11 SDG17

(Source: Author)

This paper aims to serve as a base for future studies by acting as a one-stop centre for easy-referencing Sustainable Development Goals policies in Malaysia, especially for those new to the field, such as appointed local government officials. The paper also summarised SDGs embroidered policies under the ambit of MHLG with particular attention to those related to local governments' involvement. As public policy undergoes constant changes and modification to ensure the policy is relevant for current challenges, having a sound foundation on public policy can lead to better judgement and decision making.

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