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**THE IMPORTANCE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
REPORT IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

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ABSTRACT

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool to evaluate the environmental effects of development project. It is essentially a planning mechanism for preventing environmental problems due to an action. It ensures that the potential problems are foreseen and addressed at an early stage in the project planning and design. Since it was first formally develop in the United States and become effective since January, 1, 1970, EIA has been widely discussed. Recently, our country had faced landslides disaster which had taken many innocent lives. The disaster mainly occurs in hillside area and it is because of the overdevelopment. The irresponsible developer who tends to ignore EIA report in conducting their project had contribute to the occurring significant impacts which eventually lead to environmental damages. The main aim of this project is to identify the importance of EIA in development projects. Besides, this study is also conducted to clearly explain the detail process and procedure of EIA and the problems of EIA report and application. At the end of this study, some opinions regarding effective steps for EIA continuous improvement in the future will also be discussed. Sources of the data and information are gathered by the author from literature review of previous researchers, academic writings, published articles, and supported by the opinions of practitioners through structured interviews.

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CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

1.0 Introduction

Malaysia has in recent years undergone rapid growth in construction industry and continuing to attract foreign investors to the country. As Malaysian, we can be proud of our great building such as Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. Some international investors also called our country as their "Second Home".

It cannot be avoided that Malaysia will always conduct new development projects in order to make sure its economic development and continue able development to stand at the same level with other developed countries.

However, in order to conduct any development project as well as to maintain a high rate of economic development, Malaysia has drawn heavily on its resources both renewable and non-renewable resources ranging from lands, minerals, forestry, fossil fuels and to the most basic resources which is water. All of these resources involved our environment and recently our environmental quality has rapidly declined.

The issues regarding environmental nowadays has increased the public awareness and it has motivate government to legislate policy and strategic environmental care in the Third Malaysia Plan. This is the first time environmental issues is being given consideration in the five years Malaysian Development Plan because the previous development plan did not include environmental matters.