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**POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CONTRIBUTION TO
THE DEVELOPMENT IN KOTA SAMARAHAN**

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ABSTRACT

There are a lot of characteristics of political representatives that may influence the voting in an election in Kota Samarahan. This study is to determine the relationship between the characteristics of the political representatives chosen and the development. The main purpose of this study is to identify and determine whether the Political Representatives influence the development in Kota Samarahan. Additionally, does the political representative they choose contribute to the development in their constituency in terms of basic necessities. The methodology used in this study is through quantitative methods such as collecting data through questionnaires and Statistical Package Social Science (SPSS) to analyse the data. At the same time, what are the characteristics that voters consider in electing a political representative candidate in their constituencies. Based on the researchers' findings, all the characteristics show a positive relationship between the political representatives chosen and the development in Kota Samarahan. From the study, some implications can be identified which are identification of the dominant characteristics of the political representatives and there is a better infrastructure development in Kota Samarahan. Next is the limitations of this study which are limitations of financial aspects and limited target audience.

Keywords: *political representatives, development, contribution, characteristics, Kota Samarahan.*

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1.2 Background of Study

This research will investigate the relationship between political representatives and development in the Kota Samarahan. Political representatives are defined as representatives who are democratically elected, subject to removal from office, and who work within and have influence over a legal and constitutional framework (Morrell & Hartley, 2006). These political representatives must possess great characteristics to be elected to society.

The characteristic of a political representative is political literacy (Pitutecha & Silpcharu, 2019, 106). Political literacy is part of development to motivate people under their constituency. Their ability to learn, find, and act on their own initiative will be aided by their political literacy. As cited in (Pitutecha & Silpcharu, 2019, 106), there are identified two criteria, which include voter credibility and level of faith in the government to become civically engaged in the election. As we know, during the election we will ballot in a sort of box because we need to protect our votes without being exposed. We as responsible voters must be credible and trust our choice of political representative. Both the political leader and the political system, in the form of its institutions and processes, are crucial since they are both recognised as essential components of the mechanisms underlying economic growth and development (Ofosu-Anim & Back, 2021).

Development is the process in which someone or something grows or changes and becomes more advanced (Cambridge Dictionary, 2019). Malaysia is a developing nation, so the government has made several measures to raise the standard of living for all citizens, whether they live in cities or rural areas (Manggat et al., 2018, 640). Unlike rural areas, which are typically hindered by limited, subpar infrastructure amenities, urban areas are frequently synonymous with decent facilities or basic infrastructure. The fundamental factors determining a community's well-being, especially in rural areas, are basic infrastructure components like roads, a clean water supply, and communication. The notion of infrastructure development, the demands for and effects of infrastructure development in rural areas, and the function of community social workers are all topics for discussion in this study. According to Oyedele (2012) as cited by Manggat et al. (2018), the main criterion by which a nation's leadership performance is evaluated is infrastructure development. The perspectives of scholars with diverse backgrounds must therefore be considered while discussing the notion and terminology of infrastructure development.

Growth theory is strongly related to the theoretical assessment of how infrastructure development affects economic development. For instance, the research of Arrow and Kurz

2.2 Theoretical Discussion

2.2.1 Characteristic of Political Representatives

2.2.1.1 Achievement Political Party Representatives

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak pledged to revitalise the country's rural districts in 2013. This is to bring rural areas' living to parity with metropolitan populations. The Pan-Borneo Highway, West Coast Motorway, and rural roads were among the pledges made by the Barisan Nasional in their manifesto for the general election of 2013. These developments bring the satisfaction of voters because their basic needs can be achieved by their selected party. Five years later, the administration has succeeded in modernising rural areas and constructing an infrastructure of the highest calibre. In that time, the Federal Government successfully established 60,473 homes with electricity, 131,969 homes with piped water, and 16,114 km of tarred roads in rural areas. All these establishments done by Barisan Nasional do secure their voters and their seat to win another election because the voters are satisfied. The development done by Barisan Nasional eases rural areas to all the facilities provided by them, will facilitate daily life, and be able to feel the growth like Peninsular Malaysia. The development done by this party is to bridge the development gap between the states so that they do not fall behind. Manifesto promises during the campaign period are implemented during the government period instead of false promises that attract voters. Barisan Nasional succeeded in implementing its manifesto even though the development has not been completed comprehensively (Nasaruddin et al., 2018).

For Sarawak to advance and grow, Datuk Tiong Thai King was certain that voters must choose GPS, a moderately inclusive, diversified, yet cohesive, harmonious, and cooperative administration. Tiong claimed that under Abang Johari, Sarawak's rights, respect, and prestige are gradually returning to the state. The results could be seen by the successful recovery of RM7 billion in oil and gas royalties over the previous three years. With this achievement shown by Tan Sri Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg, the voters would vote for him again and his political party. This is due to great leadership by putting people first and development before anything else. His political ideology is warm and rooted in the people because the plan includes people's needs and development (Chua, 2021).