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TWELFTH MALAYSIA PLAN: PROSPECTIVE IMPACTS ON URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The Malaysia Plan is a five-year development plan that comprises policies and strategies to guide the government to achieve desired economic and socio-economic goals. The first Malaysia Plan started in 1966 following the inclusion of Sabah and Sarawak in 1963, followed by consecutive plans until the present 12th Malaysia Plan (RMK12, 2021–2025). The last ten years have shown a significant shift by the Malaysian government in emphasising the importance of urban and regional planning in shaping the national development policies and strategies. This paper analyses policies and strategic projects proposed in RMK12 that relate to urban and regional development and their likely impacts on the spatial development of the nation. The present study employs conventional content analysis as its main method. In addition, RMK12 policies and strategic projects are linked to the thrusts of Rancangan Fizikal Negara 4 (RFN4) and the principles of Dasar Perbandaran Negara 2 (DPN2). The findings demonstrated existing links between the policies and strategic projects of RMK12 and the thrusts of RFN4 and the principles of DPN2. Additionally, the spatial focus of RMK12 projects on the Klang Valley and Sabah and Sarawak indicates the government's commitment to leverage the economic potential of cities and the need to reduce regional development disparity between Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and Sarawak. The findings will assist stakeholders in better understanding the implications and significance of the policies and strategic projects highlighted in RMK12 for Malaysian urban and regional development, and will thus drive the country toward achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

Keywords: RMK12, Strategic Projects, Urban Development, Rural Development, Malaysia

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INTRODUCTION

In the Malaysian development system, the Malaysia Plan, or better known as Rancangan Malaysia (RMK), is the most important government document that outlines the national development policies and strategies for a five-year period. The five-year development document developed by the Economic Planning Unit under the Prime Minister's Department highlights the focus of the nation's economic and socio-economic development. The current plan is the 12th Malaysia Plan (RMK12), which runs from 2021 until 2025.

The strategies and aspirations contained in the Malaysia Plan are translated into the annual development budget unveiled by the Finance Minister in October every year. Regarding physical development, the Malaysia Plan is translated into the National Physical Plan, which is currently in its fourth edition (Rancangan Fizikal Negara—RFN4). However, the recently released RMK12 may not have been incorporated into the RFN4 because the RFN4 was developed prior to the introduction of the RMK12.

RMK12 has proposed some strategic projects in the development plan as the catalyst for sustainable and inclusive urban and regional development. The questions raised in this study are “What are the strategies and strategic projects being proposed that are related to urban and regional development?” and, most importantly, “What are the implications of these policies and projects for urban and regional development in Malaysia?”

This study examines the significance and implications of policies and strategic projects outlined in the RMK12 for urban and regional development in Malaysia, especially concerning documents related to physical and urban development, such as RFN4 and National Urbanisation Policies (Dasar Perbandaran Negara—DPN2). In addition, it links these policies and strategies to the government's aspirations of Wawasan Kemakmuran Bersama 2030 and the 2030 Agenda. Conventional content analysis is used to retrieve and analyse the qualitative data from the RMK12, which addresses both research questions.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study employs conventional content analysis as the main method to examine the impact of RMK12's policies and strategic projects on the aspects of urban and regional development in Malaysia. Subjectively, this content analysis approach analyses and interprets the relationship between two concepts—policies and strategic projects and urban and regional planning (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005).

In this study, conventional content analysis is used to comprehend a phenomenon, which is the impact of policies and strategic projects on urban and regional development in Malaysia following the implementation of RMK12. This study adapted the content analysis approach underlined by Hsieh and Shannon (2005) by reading RMK12 several times to provide an understanding of the whole document. It is followed by each line of words being read using the skimming

and scanning technique (SST). SST is used to obtain key information and the primary idea of the reading material by searching the text for specific information (Sutz & Weverka, 2009).

In this study, the key information analysed is policies and strategic projects related to urban and regional planning and development. The projects are then mapped spatially. Key information is then highlighted and analysed, and prospective impacts of these projects on the spatial development of the nation are presented. This is done by linking the Priority Areas of the RMK12 with the Thrusts in RFN4 and the Principles of DPN2. The analyses are also linked to the *Wawasan Kemakmuran Bersama 2030* government aspirations and the 2030 Agenda as outlined in the RMK12.

MALAYSIAN NATIONAL PLANS AND RANCANGAN MALAYSIA KE-12

A “development plan” is a document comprising policies and strategies prepared to help a government manage the available resources to achieve specific socio-economic goals within four to six years. Hence, it is not merely focused on the development of economic aspects but also on social, structural, and institutional aspects (Casey & Chew Ging, 2017). For Malaysia, the five-year development plan started with the Rancangan Malaya Pertama (1956–1960). With the inclusion of Sabah and Sarawak in 1963, Rancangan Malaysia Pertama (RMK1) was launched and covered the period of 1966–1970. Consecutive National Plans are rolled out every five years, with the current one being RMK12 (2021–2025). The Malaysian government has made a significant shift in shaping national development policies and strategies over the last ten (10) years, emphasising the importance of urban and regional planning as a driver for sustainable and inclusive development. It is translated into the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016–2020), where the policies outlined focus on strengthening the socio-economic well-being of the rakyat (people of the nation) through infrastructure, amenities, and public services. In addition, the inclusion of green growth as part of the key focus indicated the government’s agenda toward sustainable and resilient development. This direction is carried forward in the Mid-Term Review of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan following the review of the performance made by the government in 2016–2017. Even though progress has been made to improve the rakyat's quality of life and well-being, it is clear that a number of problems, such as affordable housing and the development gap between urban and rural areas and regions, still need to be resolved (Economic Planning Unit, 2018).

RMK12 commemorated the government's commitment to invest continuously in inclusive urban and regional development, thereby advancing balanced regional development and environmental sustainability. This corresponds with the new national vision, which focuses on the prosperity and

well-being of all citizens—Wawasan Kemakmuran Bersama 2030. Moreover, as a developing nation, the Malaysian government has consistently embraced a sustainable development agenda by incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the Malaysia Plan strategies in an effort to attain the 2030 Agenda (Economic Planning Unit, 2021).

Table 1: Focus of Malaysia Five-Year Plan since 2016

Plan	Period	Focus
Eleventh Malaysia Plan (RMK11)	2016–2020	Strengthening macroeconomic; Enhancing inclusiveness, well-being, human capital, and green growth; Strengthening infrastructure; Re-engineering economic growth; Transforming public services.
Mid-Term Review: Eleventh Malaysia Plan	2018–2020	Generating meaningful economic growth; Reforming governance and inclusive development; Balancing regional development, human capital, and green growth.
Twelfth Malaysia Plan (RMK12)	2021–2025	Resetting the economy; Strengthening security, well-being, and inclusivity; Advancing sustainability and future talents; Adopting technology; Enhancing connectivity; Strengthening public services.

As shown in **Table 1**, in addition to their main focus on economic policies, RMK11 and RMK12 focus on areas connected to urban and regional development that enhance economic growth and improve people’s livelihoods. In RMK11, the focus includes “enhancing inclusiveness and green growth, and strengthening infrastructure.” The mid-term review of the RMK11 included “inclusive development, balanced regional development, and green growth.” The current RMK12 focuses on “well-being and inclusivity, advancing sustainability as well as enhancing connectivity,” which augurs well for the urban and regional development of the nation.

MALAYSIA DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

As mentioned in the earlier section, the Malaysia Plan is essentially an economic development plan that guides the nation’s development every five years. Its main objectives are economic growth and stability, as well as the socio-economic

development of its people. Urban and regional development, meanwhile, is concerned with planning and regulating land use and spatial development, improving the quality of life, generating economic growth, and managing the environment to achieve sustainable development (UN-Habitat, 2016).

A few chapters in the RMK12 have proposed various policies and strategic projects that could have an impact on urban and regional development, as listed in **Table 2**. In Chapter 4: Enhancing Defence, Security, Well-being and Unity, RMK12 proposes affordable public housing to the tune of 2934 units on *waqf* land. Furthermore, user-friendly facilities for improved liveability are provided through the *Program Penyelenggaraan Perumahan* (PPP) and *Tabung Penyelenggaraan Perumahan Malaysia* (TPPM), involving 718 low-cost and medium-cost housing projects.

In Chapter 5: Addressing Poverty and Building an Inclusive Society, the Plan has listed four main areas, which include enhancing opportunities for home ownership by B40; elevating the standard of living of low-income Chinese and Indian households; optimising Malay reserve land and *waqf* instruments; and enhancing the development of the *Orang Asli* community. For home ownership, various housing programmes such as Rent-to-Own, *Rumah Mesra Rakyat*, and *Perumahan Penjawat Awam* will continue to be implemented. At the same time, basic infrastructure for Chinese new villages and better access to quality education for the Indian community will raise their standard of living. An integrated master plan for the development of *waqf* land and closer collaboration between federal and state agencies will lead to the optimal development of *waqf* land. On the other hand, the development of the *Orang Asli* community will be improved through land gazettelement for economic activities such as ecotourism and agritourism, as well as the construction of roads and the provision of utilities and telecommunication facilities.

Chapter 6, which is on Improving Regional Balance and Inclusion, has perhaps the greatest number of policies and strategic projects related to urban and regional development. In summary, they are as follows:

- i. **Accelerating Development Based on Key Growth Nodes and Hot Spot Areas:**
Some of the projects mentioned are the strategic development of new townships in Penang and Negeri Sembilan. Other significant projects are the development of Malaysia Vision Valley 2.0 in Negeri Sembilan and the Pagoh Special Economic Zone in Johor. These projects will bring further economic activity to these areas. The extension of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) will accelerate growth in interior Sarawak.
- ii. **Improving Connectivity and Mobility to Boost Inter and Intra-regional**

Economic Activities:

Projects such as the West Coast Expressway and the proposed Labuan Menumbok bridge will improve transport networks and attract more economic activity.

- iii. **Strengthening Regional Planning:**
State policies and plans such as the Smart Selangor Action Plan 2025, *Pelan Induk Terengganu Sejahtera* 2030 and Perlis Digital Plan 2021–2025 will be aligned to the national digital transformation objectives. In addition, state initiatives will be aligned with federal development policies.
- iv. **Enhancing cooperation under IMT-GT and BIMP-EAGA:**
At least 30 catalytic projects which enhance local economic activities have been identified. A Green City Action Plan for an additional 14 urban centres will be implemented. A bridge connecting Rantau Panjang and Sungai Golok and the completion of more segments of the Pan Borneo Highway will enhance economic growth in rural areas.
- v. **Strengthening Urban Development Planning:**
DPN2 and RFN4 will provide a comprehensive spatial planning framework. MURNINets will be expanded to all local authorities, while the Malaysia Smart City Framework will guide the Smart City agenda.
- vi. **Leveraging City Competitiveness to Attract Investment:**
This strategy proposes Cyberjaya to be revitalised as a global technology hub and Bandar Malaysia to be developed as an international business hub.
- vii. **Optimising Land Use for Rural Economy:**
Through technology adoption, training, and financial aid, FELDA's *Program Pembangunan Peneroka* will increase agricultural activities for settlers.

Development in Sabah and Sarawak is covered extensively in Chapter 7, specifically focusing on enhancing socio-economic development in both states. Regional development corridors, such as SEDIA in Sabah and SCORE in Sarawak, are leveraged to concentrate on niche areas such as oil, gas, and energy, manufacturing, and agriculture. In addition, development agencies are tasked with developing comprehensive development plans for interior areas of the states. These rural developments are supported through the enhancement of infrastructure and utilities. Infrastructure connectivity for stronger economic ties

is also a priority. This is done through road construction; upgrading existing amenities; and building the Integrated Customs, Immigration, and Quarantine (ICIQ) facilities.

Moreover, the focus is given to improving the competitiveness of major cities such as Kota Kinabalu and Kuching, thus maximising the potential of other towns to attract investments. In terms of affordable housing, 3202 low-cost houses under *Program Perumahan Rakyat* (PPR) in Sabah and Sarawak will be completed during the plan period. Besides, the development of Native Customary Land (NCR) land will also be accelerated.

Chapter 12, on the other hand, focuses on enhancing the efficiency of transport and logistic infrastructure and envisions the improvement of Transit Oriented Development, especially along the major public transport alignments such as Mass Rapid Transit 2 (MRT2) in the Klang Valley, Greater Johor Bahru, and East Coast Rail Link (ECRL).

Figure 1 translates these strategic projects into a spatial plan. Based on the map, the two main regions that will receive the bulk of development during RMK12 are the Klang Valley and Sabah and Sarawak. The intensified development in the Klang Valley is perhaps due to its role as the central economic hub for the nation, taking advantage of the potential of a rapidly urbanising economy. The current economic development paradigm relies on cities as the engine of growth. Thus, it is only appropriate that such investments, especially by the private sector, will likely be concentrated in major cities, particularly those with strong international links.

Perhaps the focus on Sabah and Sarawak is a result of political leaders in both states requesting more development funds and project allocations. The two growth corridors, coupled with the ongoing construction of the Pan Borneo Highway, are the catalysts for a larger involvement of the region in the nation's urban and regional development. Construction of the new Indonesian capital in Kalimantan is another factor driving the economic growth in Sabah and Sarawak. Reducing the development gap between the two states and Peninsular Malaysia will allow an even distribution of growth in Malaysia.

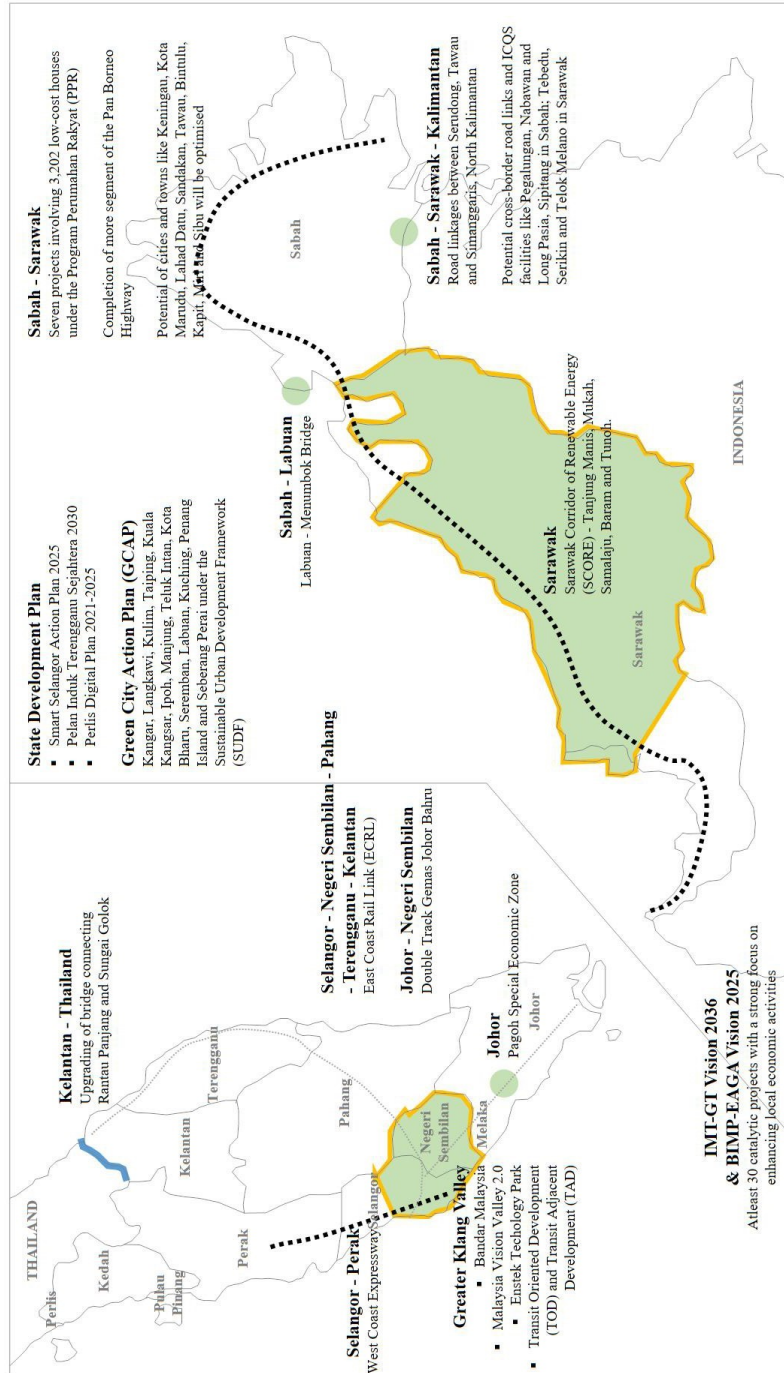


Figure 1 Urban and Regional Related Strategic Projects in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak

This section displays the linkages between the RMK12 as a development plan and two prominent spatial plans and policies that guide the Malaysian government on urban and regional development—RFN4 and DPN2. **Table 2** shows the priorities and strategies that focus on urban and regional development in these policies.

The table below demonstrates the pivotal role of urban and regional planning in driving national development to be more sustainable and inclusive. In correspondence with the RFN4 and DPN2, several priority areas under the RMK12 emphasise the aspect of urban and regional development. One of the priorities is to increase the supply of high-quality, affordable housing in all communities. This corresponds to several strategies highlighted in the RFN4 and DPN2, such as "housing provision planning for all" and "provision of adequate, high-quality, comprehensive, and affordable housing for society."

The other priorities highlighted in the RMK12 are to ensure the economic potential of key nodes like Malaysia Vision Valley (MVV 2.0) and Pagoh Special Economic Zone, as well as the states of Sabah and Sarawak, which are to be optimised. RFN4 and DPN2 key strategies, such as "Strengthening the nation's strategic position at the global level," "Sustainable and competitive economic growth," and "Optimal use of *waqf* land, Malay reserve land, and customary land," appear to complement the RMK12 priorities.

Apart from the regional level, local development in urban and rural areas is also crucial to national development. From the RMK12, it is apparent that priority will be given to improving urban planning and governance and upgrading the infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas. It is to ensure that urban development is more sustainable and resilient and, at the same time, to close the gap between urban and rural areas. These priorities are in line with the strategies that are emphasised in RFN4 and DPN2. Both of these policies address the issues of balanced and dynamic growth, as well as the sustainability and liveability of space.

Furthermore, RMK12 emphasises the importance of infrastructure and connectivity for improving the *rakyat*'s socio-economic development, especially in Sabah and Sarawak's rural areas. The intensification of infrastructure contributes to improving access to social services, thereby enhancing the liveability of the *rakyat*. Likewise, RFN4 and DPN2 emphasise several strategies that focus on the importance of infrastructure, such as "Improving digital and smart infrastructure," "Community-friendly planning and development," and "Integrated and efficient infrastructure services, utilities and municipal facilities."

Another urban and regional development-related priority underlined in RMK12 is to ensure integrated, affordable, and reliable people's mobility via public transportation. It aligns with the strategies stated in both RFN4 and DPN2, including "Strategic and integrated transportation network connectivity" and "Empowerment of comprehensive, sustainable, integrated, efficient, and affordable public transportation systems" to provide a sustainable and inclusive living environment for the community.

Table 2 Twelfth Malaysia Plan and National Policies on Urban and Regional Development Linkages

RMK12	RFN4	DPN2
<p>Chapter 4: Enhancing Defence, Security, Well-being and Unity</p> <p>Priority Area C: Increasing the Supply of Quality Affordable Housing</p> <p>Focus will be given to improving access to affordable housing by enhancing affordable housing governance and ensuring inclusive housing development.</p>	<p>Thrust 3 Liveable Environment and Inclusive Community</p> <p>KI 1: Housing Provision Planning for All</p> <p>KI 3: Conducive and Liveable Environment</p>	<p>Principle 1: Good Urban Governance</p> <p>Objective 3: Application of Accountability and Integrity Values in Development Planning</p> <p>Principle 2: Liveability City</p> <p>Objective 1: Provision of Adequate, Quality, and Comprehensive Affordable Homes for all Society</p> <p>Principle 3: A Competitive Urban Economy</p> <p>Objective 4: Optimal Use of <i>Wagf</i> Land, Malay Reserve Land, and Customary Land in Urban areas</p>
<p>Chapter 6: Improving Regional Balance and Inclusion</p> <p>Priority Area A: Optimising Regional Economic Potential</p> <p>Initiatives will focus on accelerating development based on key growth nodes and hotspot areas; attracting quality investment; improving the business ecosystem; enhancing strategic collaboration and coordination; and enhancing cooperation under IMT-GT and BIMF-EAGA.</p>	<p>Thrust 1: Balanced and Dynamic Growth</p> <p>PD 1: Strengthening the Nation's Strategic Position at a Global Level</p> <p>PD 2: Sustainable and Competitive Economic Growth</p>	<p>Principle 1: Good Urban Governance</p> <p>Objective 6: Strengthening Communication and Integrated Cooperation among all Government Agencies, Authorities, and Statutory Bodies</p>
<p>Chapter 6: Improving Regional Balance and Inclusion</p> <p>Priority Area B: Developing Sustainable Cities</p> <p>Priority will be given to promoting effective urban planning and governance; fostering a sustainable urban economy; prioritising green and resilient urban development; and developing a sustainable urban society.</p>	<p>Thrust 2: Spatial Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience</p> <p>KD 1: Holistic Land Use Planning</p> <p>KD 3: Development Towards a Carbon Neutral Nation</p> <p>Thrust 3: Liveable Environment and Inclusive Community</p> <p>KI 3: Conducive and Liveable Environment</p> <p>KI 4: Community-Friendly Planning and Development</p>	<p>Principle 1: Good Urban Governance</p> <p>Objective 2: Determination of City Boundaries</p> <p>Objective 7: Implementation of LA21 Programme and Effective Sustainable Initiatives</p> <p>Principle 2: Liveability City</p> <p>Objective 5: Implementation of Safe Urban Design</p> <p>Objective 9: A Safe Urban Environment</p> <p>Principle 3: A Competitive Urban Economy</p> <p>Objective 1: Increased Competitiveness and Urban Economic Density</p> <p>Objective 4: Optimal Use of <i>Wagf</i> Land, Malay Reserve Land, and Customary Land in Urban areas</p> <p>Objective 6: Optimise Use of Brownfield Areas</p>

Principle 5: Green Development and Clean Environment

- Objective 1: Application of Green Elements in Urban Development
- Objective 2: More Efficient and Sustainable Use of Energy
- Objective 3: Improving the Quality of Healthy Lifestyles and Clean Air in the city
- Objective 5: Increasing the Size, Quality, and Number of Open Spaces
- Objective 6: Increasing the Size and Quality of Green Areas
- Objective 7: Effective Solid Waste Management

Chapter 6: Improving Regional Balance and Inclusion

Priority Area C: Transforming Rural Areas to Bridge Development Gap

Rural areas will be further developed to narrow the development gap between rural and urban areas. This will be done by upgrading infrastructure and basic amenities, providing better connectivity, and expanding socio-economic activities.

Thrust 1: Balanced and Dynamic Growth

- PD 3: Strategic and Integrated Transportation Network Connectivity
- PD 4: Improving Digital and Smart Infrastructure

Principle 3: A Competitive Urban Economy

- Objective 4: Optimal Use of *Waqf* Land, Malay Reserve Land, and Customary Land in Urban areas
- Objective 5: Integration of Village Development Urban Planning

Chapter 7: Enhancing Socio-economic Development in Sabah and Sarawak

Priority Area A: Solidifying Provision of Infrastructure

The provision of infrastructure and connectivity will be solidified to facilitate economic activities and enable better delivery of social services, particularly in the rural areas.

Thrust 1: Balanced and Dynamic Growth

- PD 3: Strategic and Integrated Transportation Network Connectivity
- PD 4: Improving Digital and Smart Infrastructure

Principle 1: Good Urban Governance

- Objective 5: Community Involvement in Development Programmes and Projects
- Objective 6: Strengthening Communication and Integrated Cooperation among all Government Agencies, Authorities, and Statutory Bodies

Principle 2: Liveability City
 Objective 3: Empowerment of Comprehensive, Sustainable, Integrated, Efficient, and Affordable Public Transportation System
 Objective 4: Integrated and Efficient Infrastructure Services, Utilities, and Municipal Facilities

Principle 3: A Competitive Urban Economy
 Objective 3: Provision of an Efficient and Effective Communication System

Principle 1: Good Urban Governance
 Objective 6: Strengthening Communication and Integrated Cooperation among all Government Agencies, Authorities, and Statutory Bodies

Principle 3: A Competitive Urban Economy
 Objective 1: Increased Competitiveness and Urban Economic Density
 Objective 4: Optimal Use of *Wag* Land, Malay Reserve Land, and Customary Land in Urban areas
 Objective 6: Optimise Use of Brownfield Areas

Principle 4: Inclusive and Equitable Urban Development
 Objective 3: Bumiputera Involvement in Economic Development

Thrust 3: Liveable Environment and Inclusive Community
 KI 3: Conducive and Liveable Environment
 KI 4: Community-Friendly Planning and Development

Chapter 7: Enhancing Socio-economic Development in Sabah and Sarawak
Priority Area B: Optimising Economic Potential
 Sabah and Sarawak are strategically located close to a majority of ASEAN countries. Leveraging on this, measures will be taken to provide a conducive ecosystem for economic growth.

Chapter 7: Enhancing Socio-economic Development in Sabah and Sarawak
Priority Area C Improving Access to Social Services
 Efforts will concentrate on improving access to education, healthcare services, and housing, as well as enhancing security and public safety.

Thrust 1: Balanced and Dynamic Growth
 PD 1: Strengthening Nation's Strategic Position at Global Level
 PD 2: Sustainable and Competitive Economic Growth

Thrust 2: Spatial Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience
 KD 1: Holistic Land Use Planning

Principle 1: Good Urban Governance
 Objective 5: Community Involvement in Development Programmes and Projects
 Objective 7: Implementation of LA21 Programme and Effective Sustainable Initiatives

<p>Principle 2: Liveability City Objective 1: Provision of Adequate, Quality, and Comprehensive Affordable Homes for all Society Objective 4: Integrated and Efficient Infrastructure Services, Utilities, and Municipal Facilities Objective 5: Implementation of Safe Urban Design Objective 7: Comprehensive Access to Quality Health Facilities Objective 9: A Safe Urban Environment Objective 10: Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management</p> <p>Principle 4: Inclusive and Equitable Urban Development Objective 1: Programme Focus on B40 Household Welfare Objective 4: Increasing the Ability of Youth to Contribute and Receive Urban Development Benefits Objective 5: Provision of the Needs of the Elderly and Disabled within Diverse Urban Development</p> <p>Thrust 3: Liveable Environment and Inclusive Community KI 1: Housing Provision Planning for All KI 2: Building Educated and Competitive Society</p>	<p>Chapter 12: Enhancing Efficiency of Transport and Logistics Infrastructure Priority Area A: Ensuring Integrated, Affordable, Reliable and Seamless People Mobility Measures will be taken to ensure integrated, affordable, reliable, and seamless human mobility, including overall accessibility to public transport and a behavioural shift from private to public transport.</p> <p>Thrust 1: Balanced and Dynamic Growth PD 3: Strategic and Integrated Transportation Network Connectivity</p> <p>Thrust 2: Spatial Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience KD 1: Holistic Land Use Planning</p> <p>Thrust 3: Liveable Environment and Inclusive Community KI 3: Conducive and Liveable Environment KI 4: Community-Friendly Planning and Development</p> <p>Principle 1: Good Urban Governance Objective 5: Community Involvement in Development Programmes and Projects</p> <p>Principle 2: Liveability City Objective 3: Empowerment of Comprehensive, Sustainable, Integrated, Efficient, and Affordable Public Transportation System Objective 6: Improved Healthy and Low-Carbon Lifestyles</p>
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CONCLUSION

This paper contributes to the continuant discussion on the impact of the policies and strategic projects of RMK12 on the aspects of urban and rural development of the nation, especially for Malaysia, towards achieving the aspiration of Wawasan Kemakmuran Bersama 2030 and the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, this study investigates the significance and implications of policies and strategic projects proposed in the RMK12 for Malaysian urban and regional development by focusing on the RFN4 and DPN2 documents.

Using conventional content analysis, the study hopes to gain a better understanding of the impact of RMK12's policies and strategic projects on aspects of Malaysian urban and regional development. Through this process, the key information gathered is analysed and linked with the Thrusts of RFN4 and the Principles of DPN2 and mapped spatially.

The content analysis provided earlier has demonstrated that there is a close relationship between RMK12 and urban and regional development in Malaysia as depicted in RFN4 and DPN2. It is apparent that several of RMK12's priorities do focus on urban and regional development. One of the priorities is to provide more quality, affordable housing for all segments of the community.

Furthermore, the government's initiative to maximise the economic potential of important growth nodes in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak conforms to the objectives of RFN4 and DPN2 in terms of decreasing regional imbalance. More infrastructure and basic amenities projects proposed in RMK12 will help the government realise its goal of achieving sustainable and equitable development in urban and rural regions, primarily in Sabah and Sarawak.

The other urban and regional development-related priority underlined in RMK12 is to enhance public access to integrated, affordable, and reliable public transportation. This is in line with the strategies in RFN4 and DPN2.

The findings of the study are expected to assist policymakers and decision-makers, as well as other stakeholders, in better understanding the implications and importance of the policies and strategic projects highlighted in RMK12 for Malaysia's urban and regional development, thereby propelling the country toward sustainable and inclusive development. In future empirical research, numerous topics can be examined, such as the progress and effects of strategic projects on the goal of sustainable and equitable development.

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