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PROMOTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN ENHANCING THE INCLUSIVENESS OF HOUSING POLICY

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ABSTRACT

Affordable housing has been debated among scholars as the tool used by various governments to address the issue of escalating housing prices in the open market segment. A lot of schemes, programs, and initiatives have been introduced by the State Government of Sarawak to increase the supply of affordable housing to be accessed by the public. However, there is no sign that the increase in housing market prices slowing down, and a lot of people still do not have access to public housing schemes. This paper focuses on the discussion of this issue in Sarawak. Besides, it also aims to measure the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the housing policy to resolve the housing scenario faced by the public. A qualitative method was used to collect data. Among the issues discussed in this study are the impact of government intervention in the open market, public-private sector partnership, and commitment of the financial institution. This study should be beneficial for the state government to capture the real issue of affordable housing in the state and be able to develop a more holistic and realistic housing policy in the future.

KEYWORDS

Affordable housing; Sarawak; Housing scheme; Policy; Government.

INTRODUCTION

Affordable housing is one of the significant issues which has been debated on how the government caters to this issue. Housing is the most important part of social needs which becomes a crucial necessity. Nowadays, the number of housing developments built over the country has been increasing. The demand from the public also shows a good sign in the context of property development. The government itself through many programs has managed to offer various schemes to the public to own their own house. The involvement of private developers is also important in ensuring that the programs can be implemented well. Thus, the development in property development is considered one of the main sources of the country's economy and the state as well. But one of the big issues faced by the public is due to the increasing price of the scheme offered and some of the potential buyers have not had access to the offer.

² The system for development planning in Sarawak has its own special uniqueness because any decision to apply for the planning will be made by the State Planning Authority

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