A journey towards sustainability: a review on sustainable development implementation in Malaysia

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Abstract. Since its inception, Malaysia is committed in developing the country. As a member of the United Nations (UN), Malaysia has always becoming the frontrunner in fulfilling the development agenda as proposed by various regional and international organizations. The government ever since has embracing the concept of sustainability through its national framework. This can be seen when this country adopting the Local Agenda 21 (LA21), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2017, Malaysia is among the earliest countries to present the Voluntary National Report (VNR) in the SDGs progress. With a participatory from various parties, this was done at the Higher Level Political Forum (HLPF) in the UN. This has made Malaysia as a good example among the developing and Islamic countries. It serves as the best platform for Malaysia and the other members to share theirs's best practice and learn from each other as a community of practice. This paper seeks to examine sustainable development implementation in Malaysia through review of literatures and content analysis. It aims to analyze the sustainability efforts by identifying the themes of the development, the attention of the government towards the sustainability, its various policies, the involvement of actors and the challenges throughout its implementation. It is not easy for the country to make its people aware on the meaning of sustainability. It requires political commitment and integrated actions by its key players as the driving forces. Sustainable development will always be the focus for Malaysia as this global effort will make this country a better place for the future generation.

1. Introduction

The widely-accepted definition for sustainable development was coined by Brundtland Comission as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (United Nations, 1987). The definition teaches us to use the current resources efficiently as the failure to do so will threaten the future needs of the next generation. This is closely related with the obligation to protect and preserve our environment for the future. Due to the environmental complexities, it is difficult to ignore the concept of sustainable development (1). However, the concept of sustainable development is not focusing on the environmental matters alone. It goes beyond covering each part of livelihood at various levels. This is to include sustainability in public goods and services and sustainability in corporate sectors. That is why sustainable development is closely associated with the 3Es (Equity, Economy and Environment) (2). The term sustainability has become the “mantra” for better governance for both public and private sector. As the concept of sustainable development evolved throughout the years, various concepts on its implementation were introduced by many scholars. The current trend on the sustainable development implementation requires partnership among various actors.
This include more case analysis to be conducted on various cooperation and partnership towards sustainable development in which the best practice can be learned from (3).

This country is not excluded in championing the idea of sustainable development. The commitment has started since the Federation of Malaya gained its independence in 1957, and continued as its expanded with Sabah and Sarawak known as Malaysia in 1963. This paper aims in discussing the sustainable development efforts in Malaysia. By referring to various policies, the sustainable development in Malaysia has gone through a beautiful journey in ensuring the Malaysian is experiencing better living conditions. The political will of the political leaders and the government was considered as the motivating factors that lead to the formulation of various policies and initiative on sustainable development in the country.

The next section will discuss on various sustainable development progressions in since its development until to date. The main references was the official reports and data that gathered from reliable resources such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Reports and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Reports that was produced by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and the United Nations.

2. Sustainable development in Malaysia

The discussion in this article will be divided into several sections. As a start, there will be discussion on sustainable development in Malaysia post-independence. This will be followed for the year between 1990-2000, 2001-2010, and finally beyond 2010. Summary and concluding remarks will be given at the end of the discussion.

2.1 Malaysia post-independence

In its journey towards sustainable development, Malaysia is not starting anew in its development policy. It was built on a continuous process that already in gesture for decades. The efforts towards sustainable development in Malaysia have started as early 1960’s. Among the early focus of the government was in terms of education sustainability that aims to produce a holistic citizens through integrated education system.

Since 1970’s, sustainable development has become the development approach for Malaysia. The then government emphasized the concept of sustainable development through its various poverty eradication efforts aiming to improve the well-being of the people. This include through the education and environmental protection.

The most visible early policy that incorporates sustainable development in the country is the New Economic Policy (NEP) that aimed towards poverty eradication and restructuring the society. The pillars for the NEP as the main development policy in Malaysia history was through the establishment of 2nd Malaysia Plan (1971-1975) until the 5th Malaysia Plan (1986) since the NEP served for longer period of implementation from 1971-1990. The five years development plan has highlighted the sustainable development elements which includes sustainable development growth (growth with equitable distribution to all sections of society), balanced development (access to basic infrastructure and utilities, access to education and healthcare services) and mainstreaming the environmental conservation (4).

Many realized that the focus for poverty eradication outlined in the NEP was aiming to the Malays and Bumiputras through its affirmative actions. However, the government commitment for the poverty eradication policy has started since as early as 1957 (5). Throughout NEP implementation, the focus is the education, training and development, economic expansion and high employment in the aim that the landscape will change at the end of implementation. Some of these targets has been tackle by Malaysia as early as the 60’s and 70’s and only became the focus at the global setting in later years. Thus, it is easy for Malaysia to declare certain degree of achievement as the government already aware on the need to balance between the physical and social development in its policies.

The importance of environmental sustainability was highlighted in the Third Malaysia Plan 1976-1980, and it mainstreamed sustainable development into national development agendas. The Environmental Quality Act (EQA) was first enacted in the year 1974 to prevent, minimize and regulate the pollution level and also to intensify the environment in Malaysia(2). The environmental goals was further strengthened in the Fourth Malaysia Plan (1981-1985)(6). At that particular of time, the Department of Environment (DOE) was institutionalized and operated under the Ministry of Science,
Technology and the Environment with minimum roles of setting the pollution standards and monitoring the water quality. While the enforcement of the environmental quality was left to the states this has create conflicts among the agencies (6). The major contribution of DOE in this period of time is on ensuring the efforts towards the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This includes the preparation of informal EIA and Environmental Quality Council.

As in 1985, the structure of the environmental management in Malaysia is depicted at figure 1. Through the concept of federalism, the role of the federal government of Malaysia was to promulgate the national policies for natural systems management while state governments retain control on its natural resources and the implementation actions. This has created a variation on state government performance towards the environmental management. Despite of the federal environmental policy and budget allocations to the state government by virtue to promote effectiveness and efficiency, the state government tends to exploit the rights given to them (6).

Figure 1: Environmental Management in Malaysia as at 1985 (6).

The institutional and capacity building towards sustainable development in Malaysia at its early years has laid a strong foundation for the future efforts. The targets and goals are clear, the legislation is already in place and it requires commitment from various levels to move forward the implementation.

2.1.1 1990-2000
The 6th Malaysia Plan (6th MP) and the 7th Malaysia Plan (7th MP) was the pillar for the development plan for the period of 1991-2000. The plan was in tandem with the Vision 2020 that was launched by the government in 1991 as the national aspiration of becoming a fully developed country by 2020. Through the long term policy, the focus of the development became broader which covers economic, political, social spiritual, psychological and cultural. As a long term policy, it grounded on people, growth and equity.

National Development Policy (NDP)

The Malaysia National Development Policy (NDP) rooted the philosophy of sustainable development by implementing the environmental and social consideration in the nation’s economic development. Even though the NDP aim is in poverty eradication, the principle of sustainable development was inculcated in the economic, social and cultural progress. This measure was included in the 6th Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) (7). As a continuation from the previous development policies, the NDP was seen as more pragmatic at the era where industrial, manufacturing and economic expansion was occurring at the
global level. Therefore, trade liberalization, privatization and in corporatization, employment at multi-
industries, and foreign direct investment was actively geared by the government in speeding up the
development pace of the country. Still, the social development is not being left out and the wellbeing of
the people maintains integral to be the government’s focus and attention.

Local Agenda 21 (LA21)
The Agenda 21 or widely known as Local Agenda 21 (LA21) was established in 1992 during the United
Nations Conference on Environment and Development or “Earth Summit”. Held in Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil it contains the blueprint and commitment towards sustainability for the 21st century. The LA21
aimed for the development of global societies and economies by focusing on the conservation and
preservation of the environmental and natural resources. This is to tackle the issue of climate change,
environmental degradation and global population growth which bring an effect into the development.
This collective agenda has encouraged the involvement of everyone emanated from international,
national and local levels. As this initiative was applauded at the United Nations (UN) level, it was
monitored by the International Commission on Sustainable Development. In LA21, Malaysia has
committed adopting this agenda in its planning process (7). In the process of LA21, the government has
formulated a National Conservation Policy as a framework for natural resource development. This is to
balance the economic growth and environmental considerations especially at the planning and
management level (7).

The LA21 can be regarded as the pioneer global commitment towards the concept of sustainable
development. To date, most of Malaysia’s local authorities still referring the LA21 in its sustainable
development initiatives and mapping it with the later global trends for sustainable developments (MDGs
and SDGs). Hence it can be claimed that LA21 is the pillar for sustainability at local level. The initial
phase of LA21 implementation is under the purview of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government
(MHLG) and the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) with pilot projects undertaken at the Miri, Petaling
Jaya, Kuantan and Kerian as the selected local authorities (2). Ever since, LA21 covered almost all local
authorities in Malaysia with a special unit or department was established in the respective local
authorities. As at 2010, a total of 117 local authorities has undertaken the LA21 and the numbers is
increasing (8). Since LA21 engage community with bottom-up approach, this idea created a better
partnership with the community in ensuring the local development plan can be implemented based on
the concept of sustainability. The engagement goes wider as it involves private sector, NGOs and the
civil society. In addition, public trust, community leaders and neighborhood relationship also led to the
success of LA21 (8). The implementation of LA21 in Malaysia is encouraging and the best practice was
shared as part of learning process or to be replicated by others.

2.1.2 2001-2010
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was officially launched in September 2000 by virtue to
create a better world in the new millennium. With 8 goals, MDG has set 18 targets and 48 indicators to
be achieved. This declaration has been signed by 189 countries including Malaysia. The MDGs
implementation ranged from the period of 2000-2015 and two main reports was produced in describing
the success for MDGs implementation in Malaysia. The first report was in 2005 and second was in 2015
with collaboration between the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister’s Department and the
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) of the UN.

Since the 1970s, Malaysia has achieved few goals outlined in MDGs. This is due to the 5 years
Malaysia Plan that became the pillars of the nation development strategies. For instance, MDGs outlines
the poverty eradication as one of its main goals, while in 1970s Malaysia has start this initiatives and
successfully reducing the poverty to 5% by 2005 (9). This was done through rural development,
agriculture development, improving the manufacturing industries, education, health and the
infrastructure. However, the end of MDGs implementation in 2015 has recorded that Malaysia has done
very well on the 8 MDGs as the initiatives and efforts to do so has begun since 1970s onwards.
Therefore, the data shows that the country has remarkably on the right track in reaching the target.
However, there are still improvements to be done. The summary of MDGs achievement in Malaysia can be seen from Table 1 (As derived from Millennium Development Goals Report – Malaysia, 2015).

| Theme                                      | MDGs | Achievement                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger       | 1    | The poverty rate declined by 0.6% in 2014. Employments shoot from 7.6 million in 1995 to 13.5 million in 2014 (particularly in service sector). Reduction of underweight children under 5 years old by close to 90%. |
| Achieve Universal Primary Education        | 2    | In 2014, the number of participation that enrolled into education system is 97.9%. Completion rates in primary education at 98%. Youth literacy sustained at 98%. |
| Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women  | 3    | Malaysia Gender Gap Index has shown that gender inequalities have declined from 0.34 in 1980 to 0.20 in 2013. Women employment participation arise at 38% in 2014. Increase of women as leaders and in decision making positions in both public and private sectors. |
| Reduce Child Mortality                     | 4    | Malaysia has continued to push child mortality rates even lower: the U5MR and IMR rates were, respectively, reduced to 7.6 and 6.2 per 1,000 live births in 2012. |
| Improve Maternal Health                    | 5    | Malaysia has sustained a low Maternity Mortality Ratio (MMR) for the whole period of MDGs.                                                   |
| Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases| 6    | Malaysia has successfully halted and reversed the spread of HIV/AIDS. Malaysia’s success in infectious disease control.                         |
| Ensure Environmental Sustainability        | 7    | More than 90% of the people in Malaysia have access to sustainable water and sanitation facilities. Malaysia has legislated the National Policy on Biological Diversity and the National Policy on Climate Change. |
| Develop a global partnership for development| 8    | Malaysia is engaged bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation with regional and global organizations (i.e WTO, ASEAN, OIC, and others). |

The success of the MDGs in Malaysia was supported by various parties at various sectors. For MDGs 2 of education, it involved the involvement of Ministry of Education, Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), the private sectors, state governments and Ministry of Defence. For MDG 6, the interagency collaborations were actively done with the Department of Islamic Development (JAKIM), the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD), the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), the Care and Care Rehabilitation Centre (CCRC) and the Prison Department of Malaysia. This has created the growing need for various stakeholders’ engagement and communication that became the pillar for inclusivity. Therefore, any initiatives in MDGs can be well communicated to the public and create social trust. Apart of it the MDGs implementation is also congruent with the national and international legislations or frameworks. This includes Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1995 Beijing Platform for Action which serves the various goals in MDGs.
However, there are certain issues need to be tackled post 2015 MDGs implementation among others, the need for institution to monitor the development and evaluation on MDGs, lack of good quality data, better resource management, and more evidence based decision making (10). Therefore the micro and macro management of the development evaluation and monitoring is needed in ensuring the success.

**National Vision Policy (NVP)**

The National Vision Policy (NVP) from 2001 to 2010 has depicted the sustainable development principle in its second, fourth and last articles by encouraging more equitable society, sustaining economic development and pursuing environmental protection. Malaysia Vision 2020 aims at the development which integrating the economic, politic, social, spiritual, psychology and cultural. The 8th Malaysia Plan ranged for the period of 2001-2005 was the pillar for the NVP.

**9th Malaysia Plan and 10th Malaysia Plan**

The 9th Malaysia Plan (9th MP) ranges from 2006-2010 has reported that Malaysia has considered sustainable development in its policies. With the introduction of Islam Hadhari, its ninth principle on environmental stewardship was the basis for the government commitment in balancing the development needs and the environment. Based on its efforts to reduce environmental stress on human health and ecosystem protection vitality, an Environmental Performance Index Study has ranked Malaysia ninth among 133 countries (1). However, there are three main challenges and pressures Malaysia towards sustainability, which are the land-use changes, pollution and introduction of exotic species which may lead to be future un-sustainability.

In the 10th Malaysian Plan, the Malaysian government has emphasized on green economy and green tourism (11).

**The New Economic Model (NEM)**

The New Economic Model (NEM) is a translation of the government’s renewal commitment towards sustainable development that was launched in 2009. With the concept of “transformational government”, the NEM is the reflection of SDGs commitment at the national level that provides the 10 years development plans for Malaysia until the year 2020. The goals of the NEM is to achieve the status of high income state, inclusive nation and sustainable country that resonate well with the SDGs three components that are economy, social and environment. To further elaborate, NEM aims to achieve a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita exceeding US$15,000 by 2020. Next, inclusiveness means no one will be marginalized from the country’s progress. This will entail, among others, reducing the divides between urban and rural dwellers, and between various ethnic groups, in an equitable and market-friendly manner. This principle is aligned with the concept of SDGs “leaving no one behind”. Finally is ensuring sustainability in managing the environment, government resources and finances.

The four pillars that support NEM was the National Transformation Programme (NTP) - 1Malaysia, the Government Transformation Programme (GTP), the Tenth and Eleventh Malaysia Plans and lastly the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP). Overall, the NEM has successfully diversified the government income, increased the GNI per capita, create more than 2.2.6 million employment opportunities, more physical development in rural areas, encouraged more private investment in oil and gas industry, and raised Malaysia’s global competitiveness.

To realize this, the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) that ranging for the year 2016-2020 was introduced. With the theme “Anchoring Growth on People”, the 11MP focus is on the “people” in its development efforts to ensure that no section of society is left behind in the process of development. In this sense, people are being engaged actively in the nation’s development and benefiting from the process. Therefore, 11th MP has become the main document for SDGs in Malaysia as most of SDGs goals are being mapped in the 11th MP. Several significant success and progress has been reported ever since. Malaysia has witnessed significant progress in terms of its efforts in eradicating poverty, improving health including child and maternal mortality rates, providing access to treated water, improved sanitation and stable electricity supply.
In assessing the MDGs, several index was used such as Gender Inequality Index, Malaysia Gender Gap Index, Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), the Maternal Mortality Ration (MMR).

2.1.3 2010 and beyond

Focusing into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030

Malaysia has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 25th September 2015. The commitment of the country towards the SDGs implementation was guaranteed by the then Prime Ministes Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit. Since its inaugural meeting, Malaysia has aggressively adopted the SDGs through its national development plan. The major Reporting on SDGs progress was made in 2017 when Malaysia has presented the Voluntary National Report (VNR) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), United Nations. The commitment to SDGs implementation in Malaysia was made that reporting is to be produced every 4 years of its implementation and 2017 VNR report was the maiden reporting. The report focused on the achievement of 8 SDGs in Malaysia, the enabling environment and its means of implementation. This has become the success stories for Malaysia’s SDGs accomplishment at its early years of implementation. Furthermore, by sharing the individual nation achievement in SDGs, Many countries can replicate the best practice on its implementation. This learning process is agreed by many authors as pertinent in ensuring the success of SDGs at various levels.

The achievements for SDGs implementation in Malaysia for the period of 2015-2017 was reported in VNR. It incorporated the achievements that resulted from the initial implementation of 11th Malaysia Plan (as the main document of SDGs in Malaysia), a series of baseline studies, engagements and consultations that led to the development of a National SDGs Roadmap 2016–2020. This Roadmap is pertinent as it highlighted the participatory processes that involved in SDGs efforts. Various actors was involved in the SDGs reporting particularly participation from states, government agencies, non-government organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector. These integrative efforts was driven by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and supported by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malaysia.

By referring to the 11th MP as the main SDGs document in Malaysia, the aim of the government is to improve the quality of life of the bottom 40 per cent of households (B40) and double their average income by 2020 to be included into the middle class earners. The government is doing this through outcome-based support and productivity-linked assistance, entrepreneurship, skills training, technology adoption and asset ownership. The government is also improving the B40 access to the affordable housing, quality health services and basic amenities.

Gender equality is at the concern of the government as well. The government is promoting the rights of women and girls. As a proof, the female labour participation rate in Malaysia has increased to 54 per cent. The government also acknowledged the women roles as decision makers at the public sector as the position occupied by women has exceeds 30 per cents. While, 26.3 per cent of women has top management positions in public-listed companies.

Environment is also the core element in SDGs, therefore the green growth strategy under the 11th Malaysia Plan is the government’s effort to manage the natural resources, conserve the environment and mitigating the effects of climate change. These strategies are being seriously taken through various plans and legislation that aimed for environmental protection in the country.
The important aspect in ensuring the success of SDGs implementation in Malaysia is by providing the enabling environment. In implementing SDGs at various levels, the enabling environment is important as an integrated support system in ensuring the success of the implementation. The principle is that no one is left behind in its implementation – thus encouraging the total involvement and inclusiveness. Several initiatives were introduced by the Malaysian government which includes:

- The establishment of a multi-stakeholder, participatory governance structure (With the National SDGs Council at the apex and chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister)
- Organizing several national SDG symposiums and focus group sessions to promote awareness and participation of stakeholders (to mobilise the inclusivity)
- Conducted studies on data readiness and gap analysis
- Undertaken a mapping exercise involving non-government and civil society organizations and the private sector to align SDGs with 11MP initiatives
- Formulated a National SDG Roadmap to guide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
- Implementing SDG initiative under the framework of the 11MP

Once the enabling environment is served, the means of SDGs implementation under the framework will be easier. Therefore, there are several means of implementation that has been undertaken by the government. This includes:

- Localising SDGs at sub-national levels by replicating the national multi-stakeholder governance structure at state levels
- Mobilising resources and funding through partnerships with stakeholders including crowd sourcing, social entrepreneurship and Corporate Social Responsibility programmes besides public sector funding under 11MP
- Strengthening data readiness and filling data gaps to develop a comprehensive dataset for SDG implementation

Table 1 summarised the key development of Malaysia SDGs achievements as derived from the VNR 2017.
### Table 2. The Key Development Achievements in Malaysia in terms of SDGs

| Theme                          | SDGs | Achievement                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Absolute Poverty and Hunger   | 1 and 2 | Absolute poverty reduced from 49.3% (1970) to 0.6% (2014), 90% reduction in under-nutrition between 1990 and 2014                                                                                         |
| Diseases and Mortality Rates  | 3    | Child and maternal mortality rates are almost at the level of developed countries; eradicated endemic smallpox and polio; drastic reductions in waterborne diseases; and reversed the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria; 95% of public health service subsidised (2015) |
| Education                     | 4 and 5 | 97.2% enrollment rates for primary and 90% for secondary school for both boys and girls in 2016 and 48% enrollment for higher education in 2012 (70% higher than in 2002) |
| Basic Amenities               | 6 and 7 | Over 95% coverage for treated water and sanitation facilities, and 98.2% coverage of 24-hour electricity supply at national level in 2015. A 1.5 times increase in renewable energy installed capacity (2016) |
| Infrastructure                | 9 and 11 | 81.5% national broadband penetration (2016) with 91.2% coverage in populated areas (2016). 58% growth in road networks with improved connectivity across the country between 2010 and 2015 |
| Justice and strong institutions| 16   | Ranked 55 out of 176 countries in Corruption Perception Index; Ranked 40 out of 193 countries in Online Service sub-index of the UN e-Government Development Index (2016) |
| SCP and Climate Change        | 12 and 13 | RM429 millions of green government procurement since 2013; carbon intensity of economy reduced by 33% since 2009                                                                                           |
| Economy and Employment        | 8 and 5 | Sustained 6.2% per annum economic growth for 50 years. Full employment since 1992. Increase of female labour force participation rate to 54.1% (2015)                                                      |
| Income Inequalities           | 10   | Reduced as indicated by lower Gini Coefficient from 0.513 (1970) to 0.401 (2014). Less than 1% poverty rate for male- and female-headed households                                                             |
| Environmental Endowment      | 14 and 15 | Maintained 55.2% forest cover, 12.1% as terrestrial protected areas and 3.36% as marine protected areas. Malaysia participates in international trans-boundary conservation efforts, namely, Heart of Borneo initiatives for forests and Coral Triangle initiatives for marine area |
| Global Roles                  | 17   | Shared development experience with 31,000 participants from 142 countries through Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (2016); Strong partner in the implementation of ASEAN Economic Community |
3. Indicators and Assessment for Sustainable Development in Malaysia

Malaysia Quality of Life Index (MQLI) was developed by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in 1999 as an assessment approach for sustainable development. This approach has viewed the subject in national level or mega scope level. The MQLI rubrics includes; air quality index, deforestation, clean water index, income, working life, transportation and communication, health, education, housing, environment, family life, social participation, public safety, culture and leisure.

MQLI was updated in 2004 and known as Malaysian Urban Quality of Life (MUQL) that related to social, economic and environmental sustainable development. It is similar to MQLI but it focuses was mostly on for major cities in Malaysia – which make it functions at city level. With 19 indicators and 14 rubrics, it covers limited subjects for environmental sustainability and is not comprehensive. The focus for MUQL are; income, working life, transportation and communication, health, education, housing, environment, family life, community participation, public safety, culture and leisure, urban service, river quality index, and finally solid waste (7).

Finally, Malaysia is doing excellent towards the SDGs implementation by applying Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) in prioritizing and selection the indicators (12). There are many indicators referred or developed in measuring and evaluating various sustainable development initiatives in Malaysia. However, proper data management is needed to ensure the data gathered through various indicators are synchronized, reliable, relevant and up to date.

4. Conclusion

Overall, the successful of sustainable development in Malaysia was a supported by its comprehensive development plans, inclusiveness of various parties and collaboration with various stakeholders. It was proven that the success of Malaysia sustainable development was due to its long term planning translated through its 5 years Malaysian Plan that was planned since this country reaches its independence. However, there are still many to be done and the policy must be continuously coherence and centralized the needs of the people as the main recipient from the end product – the policies. The implementation at the state and local government is also difficult to be proven if not being recorded and shared. Therefore, sustainable development initiatives at the lower level of the governance need to be actively evaluated as its implementation will provides data for national level. This requires systematic data collection method to support the governance of the sustainable development. More comprehensive action and best practice must be shared widely to promote an active implementation of sustainable development in Malaysia. Partnership with various stakeholders is nothing new in the implementation and it need to be strengthen further based on trust and confidence that sustainable development is forever needed.

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