



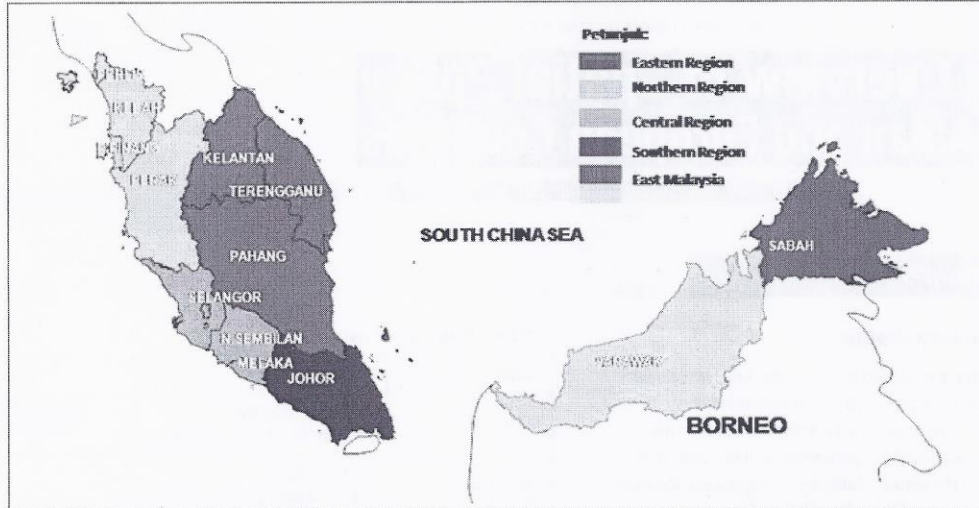
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Newspaper	SPATIAL POLICY IN MALAYSIA
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An Overview of Spatial Policy in Malaysia



Source: Federal Department of Town and Country Planning, Malaysia, 2010

Local Governments and Spatial Planning System

As a federal constitutional monarchy, the government administration is divided into three levels namely Federal Government, State Governments (comprising of 13 states; meanwhile a region is an area situated in two or more states) and Local Authorities (149 local authorities; 12 city councils, 39 municipal councils, and 98 district councils).

Local Government Act 1976 (Act 171) and Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172) became the basis of legislation to restructure local government system. Malaysia's structure of government administration is utilizing the decentralization concept comprising of two forms namely deconcentration and devolution as described in Table.

Table Decentralization Concept In Malaysia

DECONCENTRATION	DEVOLUTION
<p>Functional Decentralization Federal government transfers responsibilities and functions to lower levels of national government through the ministry and state officers (field agents). E.g: Departments that are assigned to be in charge with health, education, agriculture.</p>	<p>Higher levels of governments transfer authority for decision-making, finance, and management to local government. Local government however cannot operate on its own but must develop good relationship with state and federal government.</p>
<p>Prefectoral Decentralization Federal government assigned an officer or commissioner who has higher position in an area (district) to help with the implementation or enforcement for the central government. E.g: District Officer.</p>	<p>Compulsory Authority: Accommodating facility and services such as garbage collection, sanitary, control of disease outbreaks, building control, etc. Discretion Authority: Development or ownership of land, real estate investment.</p>

Adapted From: Abd. Rahim Md. Yunus (2001)

According to the development plan system stipulated in Act 172, the national strategic spatial planning known as National Physical Plan (NPP) is under the governance of federal level. It should be chaired by Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister as the deputy chairman. Meanwhile, regional plans entail projects involving two or more states are drafted to tackle any significant strategic issues.

Following the framework of national physical development, the policies and plans are subsequently interpreted into State Structure Plan which is accompanied by specific maps and illustrations. These plans provide policies on development and use of land in a state.

Consequently, Local Plan is drafted at the local level outlining detailed and site specified

Figure National Development Planning Framework