

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

- vii. Concentrated growth, inclusive development;
- viii. Supporting effective and smart partnerships;
- ix. Valuing our environmental endowments; and
- x. Government as a competitive corporation.

Spatial Planning System at the National Level (the National Physical Plan)

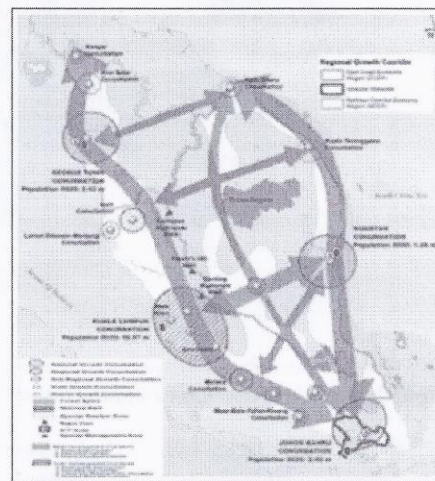
National Physical Plan (NPP), the national strategic spatial planning policies and measures, is drafted by the Federal Department of Town and Country Planning under the provision of Section 6B of the Act 172. The first NPP has been approved by the Cabinet in 2005 where the general direction and broad pattern of the land use and physical development of Peninsular Malaysia covers the period from 2006 to 2020. The review of NPP must be conducted in every five years in tandem with the review of the National Five-Year Development Plans, or as when directed by the National Physical Planning Council (NPPC).

The implementation of vision, policies, measures and land allocations formulated in NPP will be conducted primarily through collaborative process between the federal government and the states by utilizing the State Structure Plans. At present, Act 172 requires that the implementation of NPP spatial policies apply only to Peninsular Malaysia as the development control process in Sabah and Sarawak is governed by separate planning systems.

The revised NPP (NPP-2) was endorsed in August 2010 with its goal stated as *"the establishment of an efficient, equitable and sustainable national spatial framework to guide the overall development of the country towards achieving developed and high-income nation status by 2020"*. Additionally, the goal formulation is directed towards finding solutions for perceived issues pertaining climate change, sustainable urban structure, biodiversity, food security and green technology; and to support the National Key Results Areas by overcoming all the challenges like crime reduction, education, low income households, while emphasizing on the inclusive development through physical relationship between urban and rural areas.

NPP-2 sets out a development strategy for Peninsular Malaysia known as "Concentrated Decentralisation" where it is estimated that by the year of 2020, urbanization in Peninsular Malaysia is 75% and 70% of urban population will be in four major conurbations known as Kuala Lumpur Conurbation, George Town Conurbation, Kuantan Conurbation and Johor Bahru Conurbation. The key strategies are to concentrate the nation's scarce resources to a few priority urban areas with the greatest growth potential for job creation along the key economic corridors (while protecting the rural areas and natural environment), to largely focus on the future new urban development and regeneration in selected urban conurbations and key urban areas (which indirectly generate spin-offs to catalyze the development of surrounding areas in the regions), and eventually, to support the growth through the implementation of high-impact flagship projects or key infrastructure facilities.

Figure NPP-2 Development Strategy: 'Concentrated Decentralisation'



Source: Federal Department of Town and Country Planning, Malaysia, 2013 "National Physical Plan 2"

Metropolitan Planning System

Rapid urbanization of Kuala Lumpur is inevitably the result of its top-down approach in planning system with market-oriented policies to attract foreign investment along with the concentration of economic activities within an area named 'Golden Triangle'. The top-down strategy was initiated with (1) Vision 2020, (2) country's Five Year National Development Plan and (3) the federal government's nationwide spatial framework (NPP), complemented by the regional administrative policies envisioned in the (4) National Urbanisation Policy (NUP) which promotes sustainable urban development of the city. In terms of uniformity in laws and planning at lower level, to formulate structure and local plan; the city administration (City Hall of Kuala Lumpur) has joined forces with Federal Department of Town and Country Planning by creating blueprints that outline goals, strategies and policies from NPP and NUP to be incorporated in Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2020 and Draft Kuala Lumpur City Plan 2020. The Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan is a statutory plan prepared under the Federal Territory (Planning) Act 1982. The organ drafting the plan is the City Hall of Kuala Lumpur. The duration of the current plan is 20 years, from 2000 to 2020 and it contains visions, goals, policies, and proposal for the city.

Section 16B of Act 172 has also provided the local planning authority to prepare special area plan for any part of its areas. Overall, special area plan has the same effect like local plan except that it contains proposals for special and detailed treatment by development, redevelopment, improvement, conservation or management practice and the nature of the treatment proposed.