



**A STUDY ON LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING,
AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION ON LOCAL
AGENDA 21 (LA21): A CASE STUDY OF KOTA
KEMUNING, SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR,
MALAYSIA**

BY

NOOR AZLINA BINTI SAHAK

*A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for
the degree Master of Science (Built Environment)*

*Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design
International Islamic University Malaysia*

JAN 2018

ABSTRACT

Vjg"vgt o "÷uwuvckpcdng" fgxgnqr o gpvø"ku"vjg"ecvej r jtcug"qh"vjg"3 ; ;2u0"Ukpeg"vjg"Wpkvgf" Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNICED) held in June 1992, many countries including Malaysia have taken initiatives to implement the concept through the implementation of Local Agenda 21 (LA21). To promote this policy at the local level, four local authorities were chosen to implement it, namely Petaling Jaya City Council, Miri Municipal Council, Kuantan Municipal Council and Kerian District Council. For the state of Selangor, two pilot projects were launched by the local authorities of Shah Alam City Council and Kuala Selangor District Council in the early part of 2000. After nearly 16 years of implementation, how effective are these projects in promoting LA21 with the context of sustainable development? What are the level of awareness, involvement and understanding of the local community with regards to this policy? Using the case study of Kota Kemuning under the jurisdiction of Shah Alam City Council, the aim of the study is to analyze the local eq o wpkv{øu"wpfgtuvcpfkpi"cpf"cyctgpguu"qp"NC43."vj eir level of involvement in the implementation of LA21 and the effectiveness of these programs in achieving the objectives of LA21. This study used a multi-method approach of data collection that includes questionnaire surveys, in-depth interviews with ke{" tgurqpfgpvuø." ukvg" observations and data from secondary sources. 250 respondents were involved in this study. One major finding is that, in spite of a lot of time and financial resources invested in the promotion of the LA21 program, the level of awareness and participation was found to be low, reflecting the ineffectiveness of the programs undertaken by the authority. A sizeable number of the key stakeholders seemed not have knowledge and understanding with regards to LA21 and its importance. To cater to these shortcomings, a number of recommendations have been put forward to strengthen the implementation of LA21 such as to improve and provide an effective method in distributing and informing the public pertaining to LA21, to disseminate adequate information that can be easily accessed by public at any time, to develop an educational approach and consultation to enhance the awareness level of the community as well as attracting them to involve in LA21 and to enhance the roles of resident associations (RA).

APPROVAL PAGE

I certify I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion, it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science (Built Environment)

.....
Mohd Zin Mohamed
Supervisor

I certify that I have read this study and that in my opinion it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science (Built Environment)

.....
Rustam Khairi Zahari
Internal Examiner

.....
Azhar Harun
External Examiner

This thesis was submitted to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and is accepted as a fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science (Built Environment)

.....
Syakir Amir Ab. Rahman
Head, Department of Urban and
Regional Planning

This thesis was submitted to the Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design and is accepted as a fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science (Built Environment)

.....
Abdul Razak Sopian
Dean, Kulliyah of Architecture
and Environmental Design

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigation, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degree at IIUM or other institutions.

Noor Azlina Binti Sahak

Signature.....

Date.....

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

**DECLARATION OF COPYRIGHT AND AFFIRMATION
OF FAIR USE OF UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH**

**A STUDY ON LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING, AWARENESS AND
PARTICIPATION ON LOCAL AGENDA 21 (LA21), A CASE STUDY OF
KOTA KEMUNING, SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA**

I declared that the copyright holder of this thesis/dissertation are jointly owned by
the student and IIUM.

Copyright © 2018 by Noor Azlina Binti Sahak. All rights reserved.

No part of this unpublished research may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system,
or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying,
recording or otherwise without prior written permission of the copyright holder except
as provided below.

1. Any material contained in or derived from this unpublished research may
be used by other in writing with due acknowledgement.
2. IIUM or its library will have the right to make and transmit copies (print
or electronic) for institutional and academic purposes.
3. The IIUM library will have the right to make, store in a retrieval system
and supply copies of this unpublished research if requested by other
universities and research libraries.

By signing this form, I acknowledged that I have read and understand the IIUM
Intellectual Property Right and Commercialization policy.

Affirmed by Noor Azlina Binti Sahak

.....

Signature

.....

Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Alhamdulillah. I am very grateful to Allah the Almighty for giving me the strength to complete this study. First, I want to express my very profound gratitude to my parents, Hj. Sahak and Hj. Sabariah for providing me with unfailing support and continuous encouragement throughout my years of my study. Then, to my beloved and supportive husband, Mohd Alba who is always be my side when times I needed him most and helped me a lot in making this study, and also to my lovable children, Zarra Zulaikha, Yusuf Ariff and Muhammad Hail Anaqi, who served as my strength and inspiration to pursue this undertakings.

Then, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my respected supervisor, Associate Professor. Dato. Dr. Mohd Zin b. Mohamed, where expertise, understanding, generous guidance and support made it possible for me to work on the topic. It was a pleasure working with him.

I would also like to thank the officer of SACC (Shah Alam City Council) Mrs Annie Syazreen to assist me and provide me with a lot of information and ideas on the study. Then, to the Residents Association of Kota Kemuning, especially to the committee members, Mrs Vivien and Mrs Pauline who helped me a lot in conducting the survey, research.

Last but not least, I would also want to extend my appreciation to those who could not be mentioned here but have well played their role to inspire me behind the certain.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	ii
Abstract in Arabic	iii
Approval Page.....	iv
Declaration	v
Copyright Page.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	vii
List of Tables	xiii
List of Figures	xvi
List of Abbreviations	xviii

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION..... 1

1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Local Agenda 21 and Its Practice : An Overview.....	3
1.2.1 Issues and Challenges of Local Agenda 21	5
1.2.2 The Benefits of Undertaking Local Agenda 21	6
1.3 Problem Statement	8
1.4 Aim and Objectives of the Study	10
1.5 Research Questions	11
1.6 Research Methodology	11
1.6.1 Stage 1: Preliminary Study	12
1.6.2 Stage 2: Data Gathering	13
1.6.2.1 Primary Data	13
1.6.2.2 Secondary Data	14
1.6.3 Stage 3: Analysis and Findings.....	15
1.6.4 Stage 4: Recommendations and Conclusions	15
1.7 Significance of the Study	17
1.8 Limitations of the Study.....	19
1.9 Structure of the Study	20
1.10 Conclusion	23

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW ON LOCAL AGENDA 21 (LA21), SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION..... 24

2.1 Introduction.....	24
2.2 Local Agenda 21, Sustainable Development and Public Participation..	25
2.2.1 Agenda 21	25
2.2.2 Local Agenda 21 (LA 21)	28
2.2.3 The Importance of Public Awareness and Understanding of Local Agenda 21 in Malaysia	31
2.2.4 Local Agenda 21 in Selangor.....	34
2.2.5 Local Agenda 21 Shah Alam (LA21 Shah Alam)	35
2.3 Sustainable Development.....	38
2.3.1 Defining Sustainable Development	38

2.3.2	The Practice of Sustainable Development	42
2.3.3	The Importance of Sustainable Development.....	46
2.3.4	The Sustainable Development Challenges.....	49
2.3.5	Sustainable Development, Local Agenda 21 and Public Participation in Malaysia	50
2.3.6	Sustainable Development in Relation to Local Agenda 21	54
2.4	Public Participation and Selected Theories.....	57
2.4.1	Definition of Public Participation	57
2.4.2	Public Participation in Local Agenda 21	58
2.4.3	The Importance of Public Participation in Local Agenda 21....	60
2.5	Local Agenda 21 and Its Practice in Selected Countries	61
2.5.1	Local Agenda 21 in Sweden	62
2.5.2	Local Agenda 21 in United Kingdom (UK)	64
2.5.3	Local Agenda 21 in Australia	67
2.5.4	Local Agenda 21 in Denmark	69
2.5.5	Factors that Influence the Successful Implementation of Local Agenda 21	72
2.6	Analysis on the Implementation of Local Agenda 21	72
2.7	ICLEI (International Council for Local Environment Initiatives).....	72
2.8	The Roles of Local Government in the Implementation of Local Agenda 21 (LA21) in Malaysia	76
2.8.1	Local Government System and the Context of Local Agenda 21 in Malaysia	76
2.8.1.1	Statistics of Local Government in Malaysia.....	77
2.8.2	Implementation of Local Agenda 21 in Malaysia.....	84
2.8.2.1	Implementation of Local Agenda 21 in Miri, Sarawak.....	84
2.8.2.2	Implementation of Local Agenda 21 in Petaling Jaya.....	92
2.8.2.3	Implementation of Local Agenda 21 in Kuantan.....	95
2.8.2.4	Implementation of Local Agenda 21 in Kerian	99
2.8.3	Issues and Challenges of Local Agenda 21 Implementation in Malaysia	103
2.9	Background of Study Area.....	107
2.9.1	Background of Selangor Darul Ehsan.....	110
2.9.2	Shah Alam Site Profile.....	113
2.9.3	Kota Kemuning, Shah Alam as a Case Study.....	118
2.9.4	Resident Association of Kota Kemuning.....	123
2.10	Conclusion	127

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 129

3.1	Introduction.....	129
3.2	Mixed Methods: Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Methods ...	129
3.2.1	Qualitative Method	131
3.2.2	Quantitative Method	133
3.3	Data Collection	134
3.3.1	Methods of Data Collection	134
3.3.1.1	Interview	135

3.3.1.2	Questionnaire Survey	136
3.3.1.3	Questionnaire Design Organisation	138
3.3.1.4	Pilot Testing of Survey Questionnaire	141
3.3.1.5	Literature Review	142
3.4	Sampling Method	143
3.5	Method of Data Analysis	145
3.6	Conclusion	147

CHAPTER 4: ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF DATA 148

4.1	Introduction	148
4.2	Ugevkqp"3<"Tgurqpf gpvuø"Dcem i tqwpf	149
4.2.1	Age of Respondents	149
4.2.2	Gender of Respondents	150
4.2.3	Nationality of Respondents	150
4.2.4	Status of Respondents	151
4.2.5	Duration of Stay	151
4.2.6	Income of Respondents	152
4.2.7	Occupational Background	153
6040: """"Tgurqpf gpvuø"Gfwecvkqp"Dcem i tqwpf		153
4.3	Summary of Findings Based on Section 1	154
4.4	Ugevkqp"4<"Tgurqpf gpvuø"Wpfgtuvcpfkpi"cpf"C yctgpguu"qp Sustainable Development	155
4.4.1	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Wpfgtuvcpfkpi"qp"vjg"Vgt o "Uwuvckpcdng" Development	155
4.4.1.1	Reurqpf gpvuø"Ngxgn"qh"Mpqyngfi g"qh Sustainable Development	156
4.4.1.2	Understanding on the Term Sustainable Development	157
4.4.2	Tgurqpf gpvuø"C yctgpguu"qp"Uwuvckpcdng" Fgxgnqr o gpv	157
4.4.2.1	Sources of Information on Sustainable Development	158
4.4.3	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Rctvkekr cvkqp"kp Any Campaigns, Seminars or Programs on Related to Sustainable Development	159
4.4.3.1	Rgurqpf gpvuø"Htgswgpe{"qh"Rctvkekr cvkqp"kp"Cp{ Campaigns, Seminars or Programs Related to Sustainable Development	160
4.4.4	The Importance of Sustainable Development	161
4.4.5	Evaluation on the Importance of Sustainable Development	162
4.5	Summary of Findings for Section 2	163
4.6	Ugevkqp"5<"Tgurqpf gpvuø"Wpfgtuvcpfkpi"cpf"C yctgpguu"qp"Nqecn Agenda 21	164
4.6.1	Awareness and Understanding on Local Agenda 21	164
4.6.2	Awareness and Understanding of Local Agenda 21 Shah Alam	165
4.6.2.1	Sources of the Information on Local Agenda 21 Shah Alam	166
4.6.3	Understanding of the Term Local Agenda 21	167

4.6.4	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Eqpuwnvcvkqp" ykvj "Nqcal Authorities on Local Agenda 21 Programs	168
4.6.5	Tgurqpf gpvuø"C yctgpguu"qp"vjg"Ko rqtvcpeg"qh"Nqecn Agenda 21	169
4.6.6	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Gxcnvcvkqp"qp"vjg"Ko rqtvcpeg"qh"Nqecn" Agenda 21.....	169
4.6.7	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Cuuguu o gpv"qp"Nqecn" C i gpfc"43	170
4.6.8	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Cuuguu o gpv"qh the Achievement and Effectiveness on Local Agenda 21 Programs	172
4.7	Summary of Findings for Section 3	172
4.8	Ugevkqp"6<"Tgurqpf gpvuø"Rctvkekrcvkqn and Awareness on Local Agenda 21 Programs.....	174
4.8.1	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Rctvkekrcvkqp"kp Any Campaigns, Seminars or Programs Related to Local Agenda 21	175
4.8.1.1	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Htgswgpe{"qh"Rarticipation in Local Agenda 21 Programs	176
4.8.1.2	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Hwtvjgt"Cevkqn after Joining Local Agenda 21 Programs	176
4.8.2	Reasons for Participation in Local Agenda 21 Programs	177
4.8.3	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Cuuguu o gpv"qp"Rwdnke"Rctvkekrcvkqp"in Local Agenda 21 Programs.....	178
4.8.4	Tgurqpf gpvuø"Cuuguu o gpv"qp"vjg"Ko rqtvcpeg"qh Participating in Local Agenda 21 Programs.....	179
4.9	Summary of Findings for Section 4	180
4.10	Hcevqtu"Vjcv"Kphnwgpeg"vjg" Tgurqpf gpvuø"Wpfgtuvcpfkng and Awareness on Sustainable Development and Local Agenda 21 Programs ...	182
4.10.1	Pearson Chi-Square Test.....	182
4.10.1.1	Relationship between Educational Background and Understanding of Local Agenda 21.	182
4.10.2	Spearman Rho Correlation Test.....	184
4.10.2.1	Relationship between Awareness on Local Agenda 21 and Participation in Local Agenda 21 Rtqitcou í	184
4.10.2.2	Relationship between Awareness on Local Agenda 21 Shah Alam and Participation on Local Agenda 21 Programs	í 003:7
4.10.2.3	Tgncvkqpujkr"dgvy ggp" Tgurqpf gpvuø"Eqpuwnvcvkqp" by Local Authorities and Awareness towards Local Agenda 21	187
4.10.2.4	Relationship between Awareness on Sustainable Development and Participation in Local Agenda 21 Programs	188
4.11	Summary of Findings.....	190
4.12	Conclusion	191

CHAPTER 5: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.....	192
5.1 Introduction.....	192
5.2 Summary of Key Findings	192
5.2.1 Responfgpvuø"Wpfgtuvcpfkpi"cpf"Cyctgpguu"qp"Uwuvckpcdng".....	
Development Summary of Findings for Section 2	192
5.2.2 Tgurqpfgpvuø"Wpfgtuvcpfkpi"cpf"Cyctgpguu"qp"Nqecn"Ci gpfC".....	
21 and the Programs.....	194
5.2.3 Problem Statement	195
5.2.4 Factors that Influence the Understanding, Awareness and Participation in Local Agenda 21	196
5.3 Recommendations	197
5.3.1 Information Access, and Availability, Awareness and Sharing	197
5.3.1.1 Information Access, and Availability	198
5.3.1.2 Awareness	200
5.3.1.3 Sharing	201
5.3.2 Educational Approach and Consultation.....	201
5.3.3 The Roles of Residents Association (RA)	203
5.4 Conclusion	204
 REFERENCES.....	 205
 APPENDIX I: LOCAL COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS	 213

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Contents of Agenda 21	26
Table 2.2	Awareness on Local Agenda 21 among Local Authority Officers and Public	32
Table 2.3	Local Authorities in Malaysia (2016)	78
Table 2.4	City Halls and City Councils by State (2016)	79
Table 2.5	Municipal Councils by State (2016)	80
Table 2.6	District Councils by State (2016)	81
Table 2.7	Local Agenda 21 Programs Organized by Miri Municipal Council (2016)	90
Table 2.8	Local Agenda 21 Programs Organized by Petaling Jaya City Council (2015)	93
Table 2.9	Local Agenda 21 Programs Organized by Petaling Jaya City Council (2015)	94
Table 2.10	Local Agenda 21 Programs Organized by Kuantan Municipal Council (2015)	96
Table 2.11	Local Agenda 21 Programs Organized by Kerian District Council (2015)	99
Table 2.12	Interview Session with Respondents (2016)	109
Table 2.13	Existing Local Authorities in Selangor (2016)	112
Table 2.14	New Areas in Shah Alam (2015)	115
Table 2.15	No of Populations by Section (2015)	115
Table 2.16	Surrounding Area of Kota Kemuning (2016)	120
Table 2.17	Activities Organized by the Residents Association of Kota Kemuning (2015)	124
Table 2.18	Activities Organized by the Residents Association of Kota Kemuning in 2015	125

Table 4.1	Age of Respondents	150
Table 4.2	Gender of Respondents	150
Table 4.3	Nationality of Respondents	151
Table 4.4	Status of Respondents	151
Table 4.5	Tgurqpf gpvuø" Fwtcvkqp"qh"Uvc {	152
Table 4.6	Income of Respondents	152
Table 4.7	Tgurqpf gpvuø" Qeewrcvkqpcn" Dcem i tqwpf	153
Table 4.8	Resrqpf gpvuø" Gfwecvkqpcn" Dcem i tqwpf	154
Table 4.9	Awareness and Understanding on the Term Sustainable Development.	156
Table 4.10	Level of Knowledge of Sustainable Development	156
Table 4.11	Definition on the Term Sustainable Development	156
Table 4.12	Tgurqpf gpvuø" C yctgpguu" qp"Uwuvckpcdng" Fgxgnqr o gpv	158
Table 4.13	Sources of Information on Sustainable Development	159
Table 4.14	Tgurqpf gpvuø" Rctvkekrcvkqp" kp Campaigns, Seminars or Programs Related to Sustainable Development	160
Table 4.15	Frequency of the Participation	160
Table 4.16	Assessment on Sustainable Development	161
Table 4.17	Evaluation on the Importance of Sustainable Development	162
Table 4.18	Awareness and Understanding of Local Agenda 21	165
Table 4.19	Awareness and Understanding of Local Agenda 21 Shah Alam	166
Table 4.20	Sources of Information on Local Agenda 21 Shah Alam	167
Table 4.21	Understanding of the Term Local Agenda 21	167
Table 4.22	Consultation with Local Authorities on Local Agenda 21 Programs	168

Table 4.23	Awareness on the Importance of Local Agenda 21	169
Table 4.24	Evaluation on the Importance of Local Agenda 21	170
Table 4.25	Assessment on Local Agenda 21	171
Table 4.26	Effectiveness on Local Agenda 2 Programs	172
Table 4.27	Involvement in Local Agenda 21 Programs	175
Table 4.28	Frequency of Participation	176
Table 4.29	Action after Joining Local Agenda 21 Programs	177
Table 4.30	Reasons for Participation in Local Agenda 21 Programs	178
Table 4.31	Assessment on Public Participation in Local Agenda 21 Programs	179
Table 4.32	Assessment on the Importance of Participating in Local Agenda 21 Programs	180
Table 4.33	Chi-Uswctg" Vguv<" Vjg" Tgurqpfgpvuø" Gfwecvkqpcn" Background Influences their Understanding of Local Agenda 21	183
Table 4.34	Urgct ocpøu" Tjq<" C yctgpguu" qp" Nqecn" C igpfc" 43" Influences Involvement in Local Agenda 21 Programs	185
Table 4.35	Urgct ocpøu" Tjq<" C yctgpguu" qp" Nqecn" C igpfc" 43" Ujcj" Alam Influences Involvement in Local Agenda 21 Programs	186
Table 4.36	Urgct ocpøu" Tjq<" Tgncvkqpujkr" dgvyggp" Tgurqpfgpvuø" Consultations by Local Authorities Influences the Awareness on Local Agenda 21	187
Table 4.37	Urgct ocpøu" Tjq<" Relationship between Rgurqpfgpvuø" Awareness on Sustainable Development and Participation in Local Agenda 21 Programs	189

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Stage of Study Methodology	12
Figure 1.2	Research Framework	16
Figure 2.1	Awareness and Drainage Cleaning Program	90
Figure 2.2	Anti Dengue Campaign	90
Figure 2.3	<i>Mega Gotong Royong</i> Program	90
Figure 2.4	Green Earth Program	91
Figure 2.5	Petaling Jaya Fair 2015	94
Figure 2.6	Petaling Jaya Waste Summit Program	94
Figure 2.7	Petaling Jaya Green Squad Program	94
Figure 2.8	Petaling Jaya Towards Safe and Inclusive City Program	95
Figure 2.9	Kuantan <i>Mesra Komuniti</i> Program	96
Figure 2.10	Vtgg"hqt" c"Vtggö"Rtqi tc o	96
Figure 2.11	Appointments Committee of Local Agenda 21 Kuantan, sessions 2015 to 2017	97
Figure 2.12	Mesra Komuniti Program at Taman Seriku, Kuantan	97
Figure 2.13	Major <i>Gotong-Royong</i> Program in Bagan Serai and Pekan Tanjung Pindang	99
Figure 2.14	<i>Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia</i> (SPM) Examination Answering Techniques	100
Figure 2.15	Cleaning Program at Taman Seri Semarak, Taman Serai Jaya and Pt. Lebai Kadir areas	100
Figure 2.16	Building houses for poor families	100
Figure 2.17	Green Earth Program	101
Figure 2.18	Welfare Program	101

Figure 2.19	Donations to the UPSR 2007 excellent poor students	101
Figure 2.20	Periodic Aerobic Program	102
Figure 2.21	Prevention of Dengue and Chikungunya Program	102
Figure 2.22	Clean housing area within Kota Kemuning residential	120
Figure 2.23	Greenery housing area	120
Figure 2.24	Beautiful landscape for the community	121
Figure 2.25	Commercial area that fulfil the needs of Kota Kemuning residents	121
Figure 2.26	Lake Side <i>gotong-royong</i>	125
Figure 2.27	Football and Futsal tournament for secondary school	126
Figure 2.28	Ejknftgpøu"Fc{"cpf"vjg"Y qtnf"Gpxktqp o gpv"Fc{	126
Figure 2.29	Shah Alam Trees for Life Program	126

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

LA21	Local Agenda 21
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
MsBE	Master of Science for Built Environment
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
LESTARI	Institute for Environmental and Department
SSDA21	Sustainable Development Strategy and Selangor Agenda 21
SACC	Shah Alam City Council
MPP	<i>Majlis Perwakilan Penduduk</i>
INSPEN	National Institution of Valuation, Malaysia
MASTIC	Malaysian Science and Technology Information Centre
TCPD	Town and Country Planning Department
EPSM	Environmental Protection Society Malaysia
MENGO	Malaysia Environment NGOs
TRESS	Treat Every Environment Special Sdn. Bhd
LGMB	UK Local and Management Board
YDP	<i>Yang Di Pertua</i>
UHLG	Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government
MCC	Miri City Council
NGO	Non Government Organisation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PJCC	Petaling Jaya City Council
KDC	Kerian District Council
MURNINet	Malaysian Urban Indicator Network
KLIA	Kuala Lumpur International Airport
NKVE	New Klang Valley Expressway
KESAS	Shah Alam Expressway
GCE	Guthrie Corridor Expressway
ELITE	North-South Expressway Central Link
LKSA	Kemuning-Shah Alam Highway
LDP	Damansara-Puchong Expressway
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Science

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Local Agenda 21 remains at the forefront of national pursuit to promote sustainable development. Rapid economic growth has brought into question the issue of sustainable development. Local Agenda 21 is an action plan that attempts to promote sustainable development. It has been introduced focusing more on the implementation of local programs at the local level. It promotes sustainable development through participation efforts of a multiple of local agencies such as local authorities (Nisa, 2007).

The introduction of Local Agenda 21 projects within the local council agenda in Malaysia has become increasingly important due to unsustainable human activity as well as increasing demand by the local community to participate in the local decision making process (Sulzakimin, 2014). Abdul Halim (2013) clearly explained in his study that Local Agenda 21 has opened up space for local community involvement and participation in any program that emphasizes on sustainable development and there are many ongoing initiatives in partnership with local authorities and community based organisations.

However, Local Agenda 21 requires active and good involvement, commitment as well as support from all stakeholders in order to achieve the objectives. Apart from the commitment from local authority to assign the necessary resources to run the programme, the success of Local Agenda 21 also depends on the willingness of the public to support it (Abdul Ghani, 1994). As clearly mentioned

within Chapter 28 of Agenda 21, local authorities or decision makers are required to provide any programme to involve participation from local citizen. This programme must successfully attract local citizen to participate. To ensure the successful implementation of local agenda programs, the role of public itself is very important. In Malaysia, the role of local citizen has been recognized by the authorities. They were also invited to participate in the decision making process. However, the response and participation from local community in Malaysia was still poor (Abdul Ghani, 1994). This statement has been supported by the research that has been done by Kamariah Dola and Dolbani Mijan (2006) which highlighted the low public participation especially when it involves planning. This is a critical problem since among the public participation is important to promote and expand this concept of sustainable development to the community.

Hence, this research exercise is aimed to access the extent of level of public awareness, involvement and understanding of the local community with regards of the implementation of Local Agenda 21 after 16 years of its implementation using the case study of Kota Kemuning, Shah Alam, Selangor.

1.2 LOCAL AGENDA 21 AND ITS PRACTICE : AN OVERVIEW

Agenda 21 is a comprehensive action plan for worldwide sustainable development. It is also known as the comprehensive action plan that provides a guideline to manage human impact or activities towards the environment (UNCED 1992). Agenda 21 has been introduced in year 1992, during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This action plan requires all local authorities worldwide to plan and formulate Local Agenda 21 in order to promote sustainable development at the local level. Local Agenda 21 is included in chapter 28 of Agenda 21. This plan was adopted by 178 governments at the 1992 Rio Conference. Basically, Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 focuses on the local government role where they have to draw up a strong and close relationship with local citizen at their area. It clearly mention at this chapter that,

õGcej"nqecn" cwvjqtqv{"ujqwnf" gpvgt"kpvt" c" fkcniwg" ykvj"kvu" ekvk/gpu." nqecn" qticpk/cvkqpu" cpf" rtkxcvg" gpvgtrtkugu=" cpf" cfqrv" õC" Nqecn" Cigpfc" 43õ" Vjtqwij" eqpuwmcvkqp" cpf" eqpugpuwu-building, local authorities would learn citizens and from local, civic, community, business, and industrial organizations; and acquire the information pggfgf"ht"ht"owncvki"vjg"dguv"uvtcvgi"kguõ

Referring to the quote above, it can be concluded that the implementation of Local Agenda 21 requires the comprehensive involvement form all sections of society which includes local citizen, private sector, ethnic minorities as well as local authorities itself (Abdul Halim, 2013). Involvement of the whole society will give everyone the opportunity to participate to ensure comprehensive planning towards sustainable development. Thus, this action plan is to ensure the good quality of life to community as well as in the future.

Additionally, Agenda 21 recognised that many environmental problems can be traced back to local communities. Local governments have an important role to play in implementing environmental programs and gathering community support.

The Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide (1996) states that;

Local governments of local governments are engaged in Local Agenda 21 planning activities. National campaigns for Local Agenda 21 exist in many countries such as in Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. Besides, the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign were created in 1994 to assist European local governments to establish Local Agenda 21 processes in their communities. In addition to the participants in these campaigns, individual local governments have established Local Agenda 21 planning processes in Peru, Ecuador, the United States, Canada, Poland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, Greece, Senegal, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, India, Thailand, and many other countries. (p.29)

In 2001, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) have done a survey which indicates that almost 6,500 local governments in 116 countries are committed to Local Agenda 21 process (ICLEI, 2001). It clearly stated that the countries with national campaigns were found to have more Local Agenda 21 participants and programs rather than the countries without this campaign.

Furthermore, Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 requires all local governments worldwide to establish their own action plans to promote and introduce sustainable development to the public citizen within their area. These Local Agenda 21 action plans translate the principles and strategies of sustainable development for each local community. As clearly stated in Agenda 21, the objectives of Local Agenda 21 have been clarified as follow.

- i. Most local authorities in each country should have undertaken a consultative process with their local community by the year 1996.
- ii. The international community should have initiated a consultative process aimed at increasing relationship between local authorities by the year 1993.
- iii. Representatives of associations of cities and local authorities should have increased levels of cooperation and coordination. This must be achieving in year 1994 with the goal of improving the exchange of information and experience among local authorities.
- iv. All local authorities need to ensure that women and youth are represented in decision-making, planning and implementation processes.

Based on the objectives above, it can be concluded that The Local Agenda 21 objectives require all local governments to establish good relationship with the whole society and give the opportunity to everyone to participate in decision making process. Local Authorities need to involve and consult with all groups of society in order to create a shared vision for future sustainable development. Thus, this can help develop the comprehensive action plans, programmes and policies which targeted to the good participation at achieving sustainable development.

1.2.1 Issues and Challenges of Local Agenda 21

Between April 1996 and January 1997 ICLEI, in collaboration with the DPCSD (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) undertook a detailed assessment of the Local Agenda 21 movement and the implementation of Chapter 28 of Agenda 21. Two complementary surveys were prepared and distributed to document both the quantity and quality of Local Agenda 21 activity. The first survey reported on activities in 58 countries while the second survey reported from 26

countries. One of the survey required respondents to identify obstacles to starting or implementing a Local Agenda 21 process. The survey found that there are three major obstacles which are:

- i. Lack of financial support
- ii. Lack of information
- iii. Lack of expertise

Furthermore, a study done by Mary (2004) evaluated that the challenges to implement Local Agenda 21 are as follow:

- i. Traditional institutional structures that impede participatory decision-making or that are too linear for the complexities of sustainable development planning.
- ii. The influence of elections and new governments on the priority-setting process for the community.
- iii. The lack of general understanding of sustainable development principles and process by local elected officials, staff and stakeholders in the community.
- iv. Lack of vision and commitment by leaders to implement sustainable development.
- v. Poverty, illiteracy, and lack of awareness create problems in the development and implementation of sustainable development programs.

1.2.2 The Benefits of Undertaking Local Agenda 21

Local Government has a unique relationship with the community it serves. Its functions and responsibilities bring it into contact with the individuals, businesses and