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RAWAK PROPERTY BULLE PPK 344/6/2008

"Work Together With You"

PROPERTY MARKET REPORT 2008



2008 Outlook

Against the risk of slower economic growth and the threat of all-round higher inflation, 2008 is expected to be another year of consolidation for the Sarawak property market.

Buying sentiments in the housing sector is expected to be dampened by the uncertainty of the quantum of increase of petrol price in 2008. Fresh buying demand is unlikely to enter the housing market until after the Federal Government announcement of the increase in petrol price. New house prices are likely to remain stable at high levels due to the rising cost of building materials and labour. Sale launches of new housing projects are not expected to differ much in numbers from 2007.

Apart from the on-going construction of a few retail complexes and the possibility of the start of construction of another new megamall in Kuching, activities in the retail sector are also expected to be quiet and slow.

For the industrial sector, 2008 would be another quiet year.

By the end of 2008, we may witness the completion of one or two new hotels and the start of construction of more hotels in Kuching.







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Ongoing residential developments under construction in Miri



Various residential developments in Kuching

Table 1 New Housing Units 2007

Region	Туре	Units completed	Units Under Construction	Units Launched 2007	Units construction Started 2007
	SS terraced	650 (1158)	1024 (913)	261 (1039)	752 (613)
	DS terraced	1245 (1029)	1288 (1569)	913 (980)	973 (837)
	SS semi-dee	207 (168)	196 (261)	142 (125)	142 (153)
	DS semi-dee	378 (319)	508 (510)	418 (242)	376 (216)
	DS quadruplex	504 (0)	0 (504)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Kuching	Total	2984 (2674)	3016 (3757)	1734 (2386)	2243 (1819)
	SS terraced	997 (1157)	1400 (1684)	1353 (277)	713 (846)
	DS terraced	401 (338)	172 (456)	133 (263)	117 (196)
	SS semi-dee	106 (177)	80 (140)	70 (38)	46 (66)
	DS semi-dee	90 (36)	26 (112)	4 (68)	4 (28)
Samarahan	Total	1594 (1708)	1678 (2392)	1560 (646)	880 (1136)
	SS terraced	279 (197)	694 (442)	188 (883)	531 (333)
	DS terraced	833 (849)	1479 (1740)	487 (1007)	572 (964)
	SS semi-dee	22 (0)	50 (30)	14 (68)	42 (26)
	DS semi-dee	339 (149)	460 (569)	190 (282)	230 (256)
Sibu	Total	1473 (1195)	2683 (2781)	879 (2240)	1375 (1579)
	SS terraced	43 (48)	149 (32)	160 (35)	160 (35)
	DS terraced	211 (167)	124 (311)	24 (129)	24 (117)
	SS semi-dee	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (0)	0 (0)
	DS semi-dee	70 (119)	57 (127)	28 (46)	0 (28)
Bintulu	Total	324 (334)	330 (470)	220 (210)	184 (180)
	SS terraced	387 (1364)	985 (636)	229 (722)	736 (444)
	DS terraced	407 (219)	268 (453)	121 (256)	222 (194)
	SS semi-dee	166 (134)	199 (157)	199 (96)	208 (88)
	DS semi-dee	274 (96)	212 (363)	100 (268)	123 (215)
Miri	Total	1234 (1813)	1664 (1609)	649 (1342)	1289 (941)
	Grand Total	7609 (7724)	9371 (11009)	5042 (6824)	5971 (5655)

* Figures in () denotes whole year figures for 2006

Table 2 Selling prices of houses launched in 2007 (RM)

Туре	Kuching	Samarahan	Sibu	Bintulu	Miri
SS terraced – Int.	133,800 - 198,000	90,000 - 150,000	148,000 - 186,000	40,000 - 205,000	88,000 - 188,000
SS terraced – corner	168,800 - 258,000	125,000 - 185,000	185,000 - 220,000	47,000 - 295,000	172,000 - 268,000
DS terraced – int.	209,800 - 408,800	208,000 - 250,000	230,000 - 310,000	218,000 - 228,000	92,888 - 288,000
DS terraced – corner	250,000 - 574,800	230,000 - 330,000	285,000 - 380,000	250,000 - 295,000	From 260,000
SS semi-dee	154,800 - 272,000	From 210,000	238,000 - 310,000	245,000 - 351,000	208,000 - 348,000
DS semi-dee	363,000 - 750,000	345,000	355,000 - 468,000	295,000 - 310,000	408,000 - 688,000
Detached plot	200 - 550 psm	200 psm	N/A	N/A	300 - 400 psm



Various residential developments under construction in Bintulu

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PROPERTY MARKET REPORT 2008

Table 3Shop-offices/Shop-houses2007

Region	Туре	Units completed	Units Under Construction	Units Launched 2007	Units construction Started 2007
	1-storey shop	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	2-storey shop	10 (2)	0 (10)	0 (35)	0 (0)
Kuching	3-storey shop	175 (263)	400 (358)	147 (246)	217 (178)
	4-storey shop	66 (89)	72 (92)	53 (6)	46 (6)
	Total	251 (354)	472 (460)	200 (287)	263 (184)
	3-storey shop	31 (18)	16 (31)	16 (0)	16 (0)
Samarahan	4-storey shop	10 (0)	0 (10)	0 (20)	0 (0)
	Total	41 (18)	16 (41)	16 (20)	16 (0)
	2-storey shop	87 (10)	43 (87)	49 (43)	43 (43)
Sibu	3-storey shop	0 (17)	186 (76)	91 (144)	110 (47)
	4-storey shop	47 (44)	11 (58)	0 (18)	0 (19)
	Total	134 (61)	240 (221)	140 (205)	153 (109)
	3-storey shop	30 (186)	166 (190)	0 (96)	6 (190)
Bintulu	4-storey shop	7 (0)	0 (7)	0 (7)	0 (7)
	Total	37 (186)	166 (197)	0 (103)	6 (197)
	2-storey shop	32 (52)	48 (80)	0 (32)	0 (21)
Miri	3-storey shop	18 (117)	63 (81)	0 (21)	0 (31)
	Total	50 (169)	111 (161)	0 (53)	0 (52)
	Grand Total	513 (788)	1005 (1080)	356 (668)	438 (542)

Table 4 Selling prices of shop-offices/shop-houses 2007 (RM)

Region	2-storey int	2-storey corner	3-storey int	3-storey corner	4-storey int	4-storey corner
Kuching	-	-	830,000 - 1,450,000	From 980,000	1,080,000	1,580,000
Samarahan	-	-	528,800 - 628,800	718,800 - 866,800	-	-
Sibu	295,000 +	350,000 +	630,000 - 700,000	750,000 - 880,000	-	-
Bintulu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miri	From 366,000	560,000 - 680,000	From 510,000	From 800,000	-	-

Table 5 Semi-detached industrial units 2007

Туре	Units completed	Units Under Construction	Units Launched
Kuching	0 (128)	64 (22)	20 (120)
Sibu	46 (144)	56 (52)	50 (40)
Bintulu	0 (0)	24 (24)	58 (0)
Miri	30 (0)	12 (30)	10 (72)
Total	76 (272)	156 (128)	138 (232)

Table 6Selling prices of semi-detached industrial units
launched in 2007

Region	Land size (sm)	Built-up area (sm)	Selling prices (RM)
Kuching	NA	216.3	460,000
Sibu	From 690	223	From 435,000
Bintulu	517 - 1692	644 - 915.30	550,000 - 720,000
Miri	475 - 790	135 - 496	256,000 - 530,000

Table 73-star and above hotels

Region	Existing hotels		Existing hotels Under Construction		Prop	osed
	No.	Rooms	No.	Rooms	No.	Rooms
Kuching	15	2,950	2	748	2	535
Sibu	5	792	1 **	230	0	0
Bintulu	2	386	0	0	1	No Data
Miri	6 *	1,114	1	176	1	No Data
	Note : * 1 service apartment upgraded to hotel ** Sibu Kingwood Hotel's extension					





New retail complexes in Sibu

Cont'd on last page 12

2008 STATE BUDGET

Sarawak State Budget 2008

				Revised
(RM	million)		2008	2007
		Subtotal	Total	Total
	Budget Surplus		61	415.4
Α	Expenditure		3489	3225.6
1	Development (Refer *)		2300	2100
2	Recurrent Exp		1189	1050
3	Revision Amount			75.6
В	Revenue		3550	3641
	Oil & Gas	1326		
	Forestry	641		
	Investment & Interest	894		
	Sales Tax	194		
	Land Premium	200		
	Non-tax revenue	186		
	Non-revenue receipts	14		
	Federal grants & reimbursements	95		

Source : From various sources on the 2008 Sarawak State Budget as tabled at the DUN Sitting, 19/11/2007

Total Development Expenditure Budget *

	RM million	%
Development Items		
Commerce and Industry	1783	62.23
Transport & Communication	218	7.61
General Administration & Urban Devt	349	12.18
Agriculture & Land Devt	186	6.49
Utility Devt	165	5.76
Social & Community Devt	164	5.72
Total Development Budget	2865	

Source : From various sources on the 2008 Sarawak State Budget as tabled at the DUN Sitting, 19/11/2007

* RM4 billion from federal government

Listed Companies' Announcements

Acquisition of land by SPAD

Sarawak Plantation Agriculture Development Sdn Bhd (SPAD), a wholly owned subsidiary of Sarawak Plantation Berhad has entered into an agreement with Lembaga Amanah Kebajikan Masjid Negeri Sarawak (LAKMNS) on 28/11/2007 to acquire 4 parcels of plantation land, measuring approximately 7,620 hectares for a total purchase price of RM19,050,000. The lands are located in the Bawan and Mukah Land Districts.

Source : Bursa Malaysia Announcement Ref. : SP-071121-74178 dated 28/11//2007

RM32 million land sale from CMS to KKB Engineering

Cahya Mata Sarawak (CMS) finalized the sale of land situated at Kampung Goebilt, Kuching belonging to its subsidiary, Projected growth for different sectors, Sarawak

	2006	2007 Revised	2008
	%	%	%
GDP Growth	5.5	5.8	6.0
CPI	4.4% *	1.7%	
Growth Sector :			
Mining & Quarrying	4.1	4.3	4.3
Agriculture & Livestock	9.2	11.7	11.0
Construction	6	6.5	7.0
Manufacturing	5.3	5.8	6.0
Service	6.5	6.8	6.9
Public Investment	5.7	7.7	8.6
Private Investment	5.7	7.4	NA
Public Consumption	6.4	4.8	5.0
Private Consumption	2.6	3.2	4.2

Source : 2008 State Budget, DUN Sitting, 19/11/2007 * based on 1st 8 months of the year



CMS Steel Bhd to KKB Engineering for a disposal price valued at RM32 million. Formerly the site of CMS Steel's plant, the land includes several buildings and is fronting the Sungai Sarawak at Sejingkat and covers an area of 27.6 hectares.

Source : Bursa Announcement ref. :O & -071107-59495 dated 7/11/2007

Synergy Drive acquires stake in Bakun dam project

Synergy Drive Berhad has obtained the Government's approval to acquire a 60% stake in Sarawak Hidro Sdn Bhd, owner of the 2,400 MW Bakun dam project. The Bakun project would provide a good alternative supply of power to coal which price jumped by some 40% over the past one year.

Source : The Star, 17/11/2007

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SEMENANJUNG DEMAK PROJECT

Zecon has obtained approval from the Sarawak authorities to build a RM613.9 million property development project in Semenanjung Demak in Kuching. Zecon is also the turnkey conractor for 4,166 low and medium houses in the proposed 220 ha Petra Indah project for Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB), about 6 km from town, which is part of the overall 808 ha with a gross development value of RM2.21 billion. The remaining 606 ha will be made into an eco-park township featuring medium to high end low density houses and is expected to gross RM1.6 billion in development value. A bridge will also be built to link the township.

Source : The Business Times, NST, 30/10/2007 and StarBiz, 30/10/2007

NEW LANDMARK FOR KUCHING – HOTEL & COMMERCIAL CENTRE

A 12-storey 360-room world class hotel, service apartments, offices and commercial shophouses will be built on a 10-acre site at Jalan Lapangan Terbang, formerly occupied by Ming Kiong Garden. The hotel and headquarters of the owner, M/s Global Upline, will be developed under the 1st phase which will take up 5 acres. Clearing works started on 16/10/2007 and the project is expected to be completed and operational by August, 2008. The hotel, named Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, is to be built at RM100 million and will be managed by Starwood Asia Pacific Hotels & Resorts Pte Ltd. M/s Global Upline will also build a 4-star 220-room hotel at Jalan Tabuan targeted for completion also by 2008. This would add another 580 hotel rooms to Kuching. Another hotel has also been earmarked for Miri by Global Upline.

Source : The Borneo Post, 17/10/2007; The StarBiz, 14/11/2007

PLAZA MERDEKA to take off the ground

Work on a shopping mall, Plaza Merdeka, will take off the ground by January, 2008. Located in the old part of Kuching town, the mall will have a gross area of over half a million sf with a nett lettable area of about 350,000 sf. The distinctive feature of the mall will be its huge 9,000 sf 4-storey high garden podium for promotion and exhibitions. The mall will house a department store, supermarket, designer stores, tech centre, coffee shops as well as a food court. Car parking space will be spread over 6 acres on 2 levels. Built above the mall will be a 8-storey 290-room boutique business and tourist hotel. The Plaza Merdeka will be built at a cost of RM270 million and targeted to be ready by mid 2010.

Source : The Eastern Times, 13/10/2007

SARAWAK REGIONAL CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT (RECORDA)

The Sarawak Regional Corridor Development (RECORDA) which is implemented under the 9th and 10th Malaysia Plans was launched recently by the Prime Minister. RECORDA straddles Similajau in Bintulu division and Tanjung Manis in Mukah division, which is essentially rich in energy sources from coal to hydro-electric power and would promote growth of energy-intensive industries and business opportunities throughout the state. Aided by RECORDA, the state's central region population is expected to swell by about 200,000 from the current 800,000.

Source : The Malaysian Reserve, 17/10/2007

SARAWAK INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CENTRE (SIMC) ready by 2008

The Sarawak International Medical Centre (SIMC) sited at Samarahan, wholly owned by Sarawak Specialist Hospital & Medical Centre Sdn Bhd, which is 100% owned by the Sarawak State government, which commenced work in July 2003 would be ready by the 1st half of 2008. The contract sum for the project was about RM289 million for building works, design and consultancy fees plus another Euro 36 million more or less for specialist medical and IT equipment.

Source : Eastern Times, 23/11/2007

SEBUYAU BRIDGE

The coastal road project connecting Sebuyau to Samarahan comprising 17.4 km of road from Kampung Buloh to Sebangan town, 6.8 km around Kampung Pasir and 2.7 km of link road joining the coastal road to Sebuyau town, including an 800-metre bridge over Sungai Sebuyau was completed on 11/10/2007. The turnkey contractor of the project was PPES Works (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd. The completion of the coastal road would ease transportation of raw materials and commodities to and from Sebuyau.

Source : The Borneo Post, 12/10/2007

Flats to solve squatter problems

More Projek Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) flats will be built in Kuching, Sibu, Miri and Bintulu to rid the State of squatter colonies still existing in major towns. According to the Land & Survey Department's October findings, there were 9,339 people residing in squatter colonies statewide.

	Town	No. of Squatters
1	Miri	4351
2	Bintulu	2501
3	Kuching	1466
4	Sibu	438
		8,756

Source : The Borneo Post, 28/11/2007

NEW PROJECTS LAUNCHED

KUCHING



Launched by Mistapoint Sdn Bhd, **Home Park** situated at the 3rd Mile area offers 17 units of double-storey terraced houses (1751.8 sf) priced from RM330,000, 10 units of single-storey semi-detached houses (1162.5 sf) from RM363,000 and 12 units of double-storey semi-detached houses (1990.35 sf) from RM528,000 for sale. The terrace houses boast 4 bedrooms, 4 washrooms and 2 kitchens.

Situated just behind the existing **Taman Desa** Guru, Taman Desa Jaya is spread out over 3 phases, comprising 56 double-storey semi-detached houses priced from RM330,000 and 109 double-storey terraced houses priced from RM220,000. It is developed by Kumajaya Sdn Bhd and sited off Jalan Sultan Tengah in between various training and educational institutions.





Taman Moyan Utama is developed by Indah Kerjaya Sdn Bhd along the Tondong-Batu Kawa road. It consists of 51 single storey low cost houses, 32 single storey terrace houses and 35 double storey terraced houses. The single storey houses have a wall up area of 77.63 sm with land sizes ranging from 3.71 pts to 7.64 pts and priced from RM133,800, whilst the double storey houses have a wall up area from 172.43 sm with land sizes from 4.31 pts onwards and priced from RM218,800. The low cost plus houses (51.79 sm) are priced from RM79,800 onwards.

Precinct 88 is a 2-storey commercial complex sited at the junction between Jalan Urat Mata and Jalan Song. Developed by Coramax Sdn Bhd, it consists of 40 units of commercial units priced from RM638,000.





Woodlands Phase 3, developed by BDC Stallion Sdn Bhd, is situated beside the 1st 2 earlier phases and comprises 2 double-storey semi-detached units, 15 double-storey terraced units of Type A and 4 double-storey terraced units of Type B. The double-storey terrace with a total wall-up area of 145 sm is priced from RM289,800 onwards and the semi-detached with a total wall-up area of 194 sm is priced from RM454,800.

SAMARAHAN



Naim Cendera Berhad has launched a unique house concept called the **Zero Boundary @ the Riveria** which consists of 18 units of exclusive Semi-D bungalows that face the Merdang River. The houses are built on the edge of the lot's boundary with a land area of 337.52 sm onwards. Priced from RM528,888, it has a total wall-up area of 2,068 sf and covered area of 3,181 sf.

Vista Ilmu is a 4-storey walk-up apartment project to be developed by Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB) and built by Naim Cendera Sdn Bhd as part of the state's effort in developing affordable housing. Located in the vicinity of Desa Ilmu, it encompasses 33 acres in 2 phases and will offer a total of 1,152 units at prices ranging from RM89,500 to RM98,500.



SARAWAK PROPERTY BULLETIN

BINTULU

	Beverly Hill Villa	Iris Garden	Jade Garden Phase 2
Developer	Chieng Chuang Construction Sdn Bhd	BBC Construction Sdn Bhd	Paling Construction Sdn Bhd
Type of Property	DH1T	Apartment	DH1T
No. of Units	66	192	48
Price (RM)	115,000 - 155,000	799,999 – 121,999	155,000 - 295,000
Land Area	2.72 – 4.81 pts	-	4.31 – 11.98 pts
Building Size	19' x 33'	26.24' x 29.50'	22' x 41'

MIRI



_	by Naim Cendera SB			
Type of Property	DH1T	DH2T		
No. of Units	56	63		
Price (RM)	From RM124,888	From RM230,888		
Land Area	From 170 sm	From 197 sm		
Wall Up Area	66.27 sm	160 sm		

	Sun organic SDN BHD Wedentic function Sun Shine Garden	Fabulous Garden B Ex LU H Friedrich Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer Hannermer
	Sunshine Garden	Fabulous Garden
Developer	Sun Organic SB	Fabulous Enterprise SB
Type of Property	DH2T, DH2SD	DH2SD
No. of Units	DH2T – 50	54
	DH2SD – 22	
Price (RM)	DH2T – From RM298,000 – RM307,000	From RM368,000
	DH2SD - RM360,000	
Land Area	DH2T – From 251 sm	DH2SD – From 380 sm
	DH2SD – From 380 sm	
Wall Up Area	DH2T – 208 sm	164 sm
	DH2SD – NA	

ECONOMY

2007 WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Highlights

- World growth for 2007 is expected at 5.2%, down from the 5.4 % rate registered in 2006 with largest downward revisions to growth in the United States and other affected economies
- World growth to slow down in 2008, but still expected to remain solid at 4.75%, due to the recent turbulence in financial markets triggered by the fallout from the U.S. subprime mortgage market clouding prospects
- Major emerging markets have taken over as leading contributors to global growth with China leading the pack with a GDP growth of 11.5%, India at 9% and Russia at almost 8%, accounting for one-half of global growth over the past year
- U.S. economy is expected to remain weak next year, with growth of 1.9 percent with weak domestic consumption due to high fuel prices and low house prices

Despite the recent setbacks, sound fundamentals should keep the global economy on course and minimize the impact.

Emerging Asia

- Emerging markets China and India are the largest drivers of world growth with China now the single most important contributor to world growth, in terms of both market and purchasing-powerparity (PPP) exchange rates
- Strong emerging markets growth due to sound policies, benign external conditions
- More financial turbulence could disrupt financial flows to emerging markets

Subprime fallout clouding prospects

World growth is slowing but will remain solid, supported by the strong momentum of major emerging markets such as China and India.

(annual percent change)

			Projected		
	2005	2006	2007	2008	
World output	4.8	5.4	5.2	4.8	
United States	3.1	2.9	1.9	1.9	
Euro area	1.5	2.8	2.5	2.1	
Germany	0.8	2.9	2.4	2.0	
Japan	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.7	
Africa	5.6	5.6	5.7	6.5	
China	10.4	11.1	11.5	10.0	
India	9.0	9.7	8.9	8.4	

Source : IMF, World Economic Outlook, October 2007.

Note: Real effective exchange rates are assumed to remain constant at the levels prevailing during August 22 – September 19, 2007.

New driving force

The major emerging markets have become the main engines of world growth. For the first time, China and India are making the largest country-level contributions to global growth.

(based on PPP weights, percent of world growth)



Emerging market countries are reaping the benefits of careful macroeconomic management over the past decade and are benefiting from favourable external conditions, including high commodity prices. Despite the uncertainties about the outlook and the risks linked more directly to the global outlook, the IMF expects emerging markets to remain strong in the foreseeable future.

Source : 2007 World Economic Outlook (WEO) released by IMF on October 17, 2007

ASEAN economic performance: ADB

According to the ADB, Southeast Asian countries looking to create a single regional market need to convince investors that they can integrate their economies by 2015 with a free movement of goods, services, investment and, to a limited extent, labour.

Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, which make up ASEAN, had a combined gross domestic product of more than \$1 trillion and a population of 560 million at the end of 2006.

The ADB President advised that the oil prices close to US \$100 a barrel, along with a slowing economy in the United States, could hurt Asian economic growth in coming months even though growth in Asia, excluding Japan, this year may exceed the ADB's forecast of 8.3 percent.

While increased regional trade and improved domestic demand had reduced Southeast Asia's dependence on the wellbeing of the U.S. economy, this did not mean that Asia had "decoupled" from the world's top economy, as some economists have suggested.

Source: International Business Times, 19 November 2007

SARAWAK PROPERTY BULLETIN

Car Production and Sales

	PRODUCTION			SALES				
	November		YTD November		November		YTD November	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
PV (Passenger Vehicles)	43,232	40,509	373,233	432,548	40,053	32,613	404,793	412,867
CV (Commercial Vehicles)	3,912	3,058	35,880	40,915	3,730	3,491	40,139	41,293
Total	47,144	43,567	409,113	473,463	43,783	36,104	444,932	454,160
% change	8.21%		-13.59%		21.27%		-2.03%	

Source : Malaysian Automotive Association, 19/12/2007

- Car Sales in November 2007 improved by 868 units or 2% compared to the previous month due to a full working month and introduction of new models
- Cumulative sales figure for the 1st 11 months of this year at 444,932 units was 2% lower than 454,160 units recorded for the same period last year
- Production of cars for November 2007 at 47,144 units was 8.2% higher compared with 43,567 units produced during the same month last year
- However, total car industrial output for the 1st 11 months of 2007 was 13.6% lower at 409,113 units of passenger cars compared to 473,463 units last year

MIER lowers forecast for 2008 growth

The Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (Mier) has revised downward its forecast for the country's gross domestic productivity (GDP) growth next year to 5.4% from 5.8%, against the Government's targeted 6%. The downward revision was in light of the International Monetary Fund's downward revision of global economic growth for next year to 4.8% from 5.2%, due to the subprime mortgage crisis in the US and the higher crude oil prices.

It is, however, maintaining GDP growth for the year at 5.7% supported by a stable domestic consumption, driven mostly by the services sector.

High oil prices would exert pressure on the Government to cut subsidies and increase is expected on toll, petrol, electricity tariff hikes and others.

The appreciation of the ringgit was the only factor offsetting the upward pressure on prices but this would not affect exports since the US economy was highly dependent on imports.

Interest rate is expected to be maintained since economic growth is expected to be slower next year. Inflation for the year is expected to average 2.2%, compared with 3.6% last year. The Business Conditions Index (BCI) decreased to 117.5 points in the third quarter from 122.1 in the second quarter, but was up from 107.8 points a year ago, reflecting the execution of Ninth Malaysia Plan projects. The Consumer Sentiments Index, however, rose to 117.5 points in the third quarter from 115.9 in the preceding quarter and 107.5 points a year ago, buoyed possibly by the 2008 Budget measures.

It is expected that the world economy will rebalance and bounce back by end of 2008 and that growth in 2009 will correspond to growth in 2007.

Source : Adapted from MIER Third Quarter 2007 Malaysian Economic Outlook as reported in The Star Biz, 25/10/2007 and National Economic Outlook Conference 2008-2009 as reported in the Eastern Times, 28/11/2007

- 50% off stamp duties for houses costing <RM250,000 from 1st January, 2008
- Housing loan monthly instalment EPF withdrawal scheme effective 1st January, 2008

COMMODITIES



Sarawak Palm Oil Exports - RM/tonne



Plywood and plywood output cut

Plywood producers in Sarawak will cut down their production by between 20% and 25% to stabilize the price of the commodity in the global market, especially in Japan, a major traditional trading partner, due to a decline in the demand for building materials as a result of a data fabrication scandal in Japan which prompted authorities to slow down the issuance of new housing licences there.

Source : The Malaysian Reserve, 3/10/2007

* Up to July 2007

- Production of crude palm oil is expected at 1.6 million tonnes for 2007 and 1.8 million tonnes for 2008
- Total mature area is also expected to expand further to 508,000 hectares for 2007

* Up to Nov 2007

CALCULATION OF PREMIUM FOR RENEWAL OF LAND LEASE as adapted from Press Conference Speech by 2nd Planning & Resource Management Minister, Dato Sri Awang Tengah Ali Hassan on 28/11/2007

FORMULA :

- (A B) X C = D
- A : Current market value of land for 60 years term
- B : Current market value of land based on its unexpired term
- A B : Enhanced value
- C : Multiply by rate of premium (percentage) which is determined by the land usage and category. For Example, residential land within the category of Town Land will be charged 25%
- D : Amount of premium to be charged

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SARAWAK PROPERTY BULLETIN



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PROPERTY MARKET REPORT 2008



The Spring and Boulevard opened for business

2007 Review

Except for the retail complex sector, the Sarawak property market generally experienced less market activities in 2007 in terms of new launches and units under construction, although there are variations for the major towns of Kuching, Kota Samarahan, Sibu, Bintulu and Miri (see Table 1, 3, and 5). But prices of newly launched units were generally higher than those launched in 2006, notwithstanding the increase in stock of unsold completed units, particularly the higher end units.

However, there was a revival of the retail sector for Sarawak for 2007 which witnessed the completion of several sizeable shopping malls - Boulevard Mall (opened for business on 22-12-2007) and The Spring (opened for business on 10-1-2008) in Kuching; Delta Mall (opened for business on 29-12-2007) in Sibu; Parkcity Mall (opened on 13-6-2007), Farley Mall (19-7-2007) and Sing Kwong Supermarket (Dec 2006) in Bintulu with a few more due for completion within this 2 years - Novotel, Green Heights Mall and the Four Seasons Sheraton in Kuching, and the Bintang Jaya extension in Miri.





Retail Complexes due for completion by 2008 in Kuching



Retail Complexes under construction in Kuching

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