# SARAWAK PROPERTY BULLETIN



## 1<sup>st</sup> HALF 2013 PROPERTY MARKET REVIEW

The 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2013 was rather cautious after experiencing what can be described as a "bull run" in the last 2 years which saw very active transactions both in volume and value. Compared to the same period last year, the property market this year can be said to be rather flat with fewer launches. However, there is still much construction activity going on, a result of the past years' prolific development in the State.

Launches were slow in the  $1^{st}$  half of the year, possibly due to the political-economic uncertainty pending the outcome of the  $13^{th}$  General Election in May. However, launches are expected to pick up in the  $2^{nd}$  half of this year with the steady continuation of implementation of the government's economic transformation programmes.

The general concensus regarding property in Malaysia in 2013 is that it's going to be a buyer's market as proven by the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2013 where buyers had adopted a more "wait-and-see" stance regarding property purchases. That said, however, properties in prime attractive locations are still in great demand whilst the ever-rising property prices have seen new residential areas opening up, mostly in secondary locations, as these offer cheaper housing alternatives.

According to the Valuation & Property Services Department of the Ministry of Finance Malaysia (NAPiC), 2012 recorded a drop in volume compared with the previous year but noted an increase in value due to higher prices of property in general. Fewer transactions could be expected for 2013 given the tighter financing criteria (based on net income and 70% cap on loan-to-value for 3<sup>rd</sup> property purchase), rising development costs and higher Real Property Gain Tax (RPGT).

Prices did not systemically drop this year even though transactions slowed down. The wait for a drop in property prices look set to be prolonged as prices of existing properties won't lag behind developer prices much which have a cost push on prices, especially from higher costs of labour. However, prices of high-end properties which have gone beyond their upper threshold are expected to remain flat.

Despite the cautious market, sellers have displayed holding power and are in no rush to sell, predominantly in the landed property market, as most are still hoping for greater appreciation of their property value.

Certain areas in Sarawak ear-marked under the regional development plans of the 10th Malaysia Plan, namely SCORE, would experience unprecedented growth due to the implantation of mega projects. Towns such as Bintulu and Mukah would stand to benefit greatly and the impetus would drive up demand and have a positive impact on property developments in these areas.

As Sarawak's population is still comparatively young and growing, the property market will continue to hold great potential and create opportunities for investors, remarkably so for properties meeting the criteria of being near developed infrastructures and facilities, having strong property conceptual differential (which makes it unique) and sweet in terms of both pricing (<RM500,000) and size (at least 1,000 sf).

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#### Table 1 New Housing Units 1H 2013

Region	Туре	Units Completed	Units Under Construction	Units Launched 2012	Units Construction Started 2012
	1S terraced	108	783	172	117
	2S terraced	672	1641	543	727
	3S terraced	0	62	62	62
	1S semi-d	48	200	62	42
	2S semi-d	122	671	118	210
	3S semi-d	0	58	26	26
Kuching	Total	950	3415	983	1184
	SS terraced	444	1457	92	109
	DS terraced	158	823	158	295
	TS terraced	176	0	0	0
	SS semi-d	30	54	0	0
	DS semi-d	14	257	24	16
Samarahan	Total	822	2591	274	420
	SS terraced	273	805	0	200
	DS terraced	569	1585	270	396
	SS semi-d	0	4	0	0
	DS semi-d	106	358	78	124
	Townhouse	0	0	0	0
Sibu	Total	948	2752	348	720
	SS terraced	0	174	0	0
	DS terraced	212	1096	219	137
	SS semi-d	16	2	0	0
	DS semi-d	78	284	54	14
Bintulu	Total	306	1556	273	151
	SS terraced	333	870	358	264
	DS terraced	44	902	199	215
	SS semi-dee	58	366	30	12
	DS semi-dee	24	564	116	116
	DHD	8	41	6	3
	Townhouse	0	0	0	0
	DH1.5SD	6	30	22	22
	DH2.5T	0	35	35	35
	DH1.5T	10	10	10	10
	DH3SD	74	0	0	0
	DH2.5SD	28	0	0	0
Miri	Total	585	2818	776	677
	Grand Total	3611	13132	2654	3152

Table 2 Selling prices of houses launched in 1H 2013 (RM)

Туре	Kuching	Samarahan	Sibu	Bintulu	Miri
SS terraced -	NA	177,800 -	NA	NA	NA
LCP		236,800			
SS terraced -	165,000 -	248,000 -	210,000 -	NA	231,888 -
int.	288,000	295,000	280,000		298,000
SS terraced -	250,000 -	181,800 -	250,000 -	NA	318,000 -
corner	386,000	511,800	330,000		398,000
DS terraced -	308,000 -	318,00 -	338,000 -	366,000 -	From 391,000
int.	502,000	428,000	438,000	430,000	
DS terraced -	358,000 -	338,000 -	450,000 -	430,000 -	From 498,000
corner	838,000	482,800	540,000	480,000	
TS terraced -	629,000 -	NA	NA	NA	
int.	640,000				
SS semi-	NA	NA	NA	NA	From 368,000
detached					
DS semi-	359,000 -	378,000 -	538,000 -	633,000 -	From 565,000
detached	1,118,000	470,000	700,000	840,000	
TS semi-	900,000 -	NA	NA	NA	NA
detached	1,568,000				
Detached plot	940 psm /	NA	NA	NA	NA
	38,000 per point				
					1

#### Table 3 Shop-offices/Shop-houses 1H 2013

Region	Туре	Units Completed	Units Under Construction 2012	Units Launched	Units Construction Started 2012
	2-storey shop	141	50	10	10
	3-storey shop	141	924	60	195
Kuching	4-storey shop	26	189	44	44
	6-storey shop	0	11	0	2
	8-storey shop		3		
	Total	308	1177	114	251
	Lock Up Shop	0	32	0	32
	2-storey shop	0	10	0	10
Samarahan	3-storey shop	30	334	36	98
	4-storey shop	0	30	39	0
	Total	30	406	75	140
	2-storey shop	6	76	24	24
Sibu	3-storey shop	86	574	154	74
	4-storey shop	0	36	13	10
	Total	92	686	191	108
	2-storey shop	34	72	0	0
Bintulu	3-storey shop	0	549	198	83
	4-storey shop	0	0	0	0
	Total	34	621	198	83
	2-storey shop	0	241	81	14
	3-storey shop	7	468	162	17
Miri	4-storey shop	20	18	30	0
	Total	27	727	273	31
Grand Total		491	3617	851	613

#### Table 4 Selling prices of shop-offices/shophouses 1H 2013 (RM)

Region	2-storey int	2-storey corner	3-storey int	3-storey corner	4-storey int	4-storey corner
Kuching	NA	NA	930,000 -	1,200,000 -	1,475,000	NA
			1,188,000	1,780,000		
Samarahan	NA	NA	1,000,000	1,200,000	From	NA
					1,200,000	
Sibu	NA	NA	850,000 -	From	1,000,000 -	Up to
			1,580,000	1,380,000	1,500,000	3,500,000
Bintulu	650,000 -	850,000 -	976,000 -	1,280,000 -	NA	NA
	1,050,000	1,250,000	1,800,000	2,280,000		
Miri	NA	NA	1.08 mil	2.13 mil	NA	NA

#### Table 5 Industrial units 1H 2013

Туре	Units Completed	Units Under Construction	Units Launched	Units Started		
Kuching	0	433	22	22		
Samarahan	0	28	70	0		
Sibu	26	179	66	9		
Bintulu	0	178	54	0		
Miri	16	50	0	0		
Total	42	868	212	31		
Source : WTWY Research (2013)						

#### Table 6 Selling prices of semi-detached industrial units launched in 1H 2013

Region	Land size (sm)	Built-up area (sm)	Selling prices (RM)
Kuching	NA	173	788,000
Samarahan	600 - 1,375	NA	635,000 - 1,258,000
Sibu	380 - 857	NA	340,000 - 780,000
Bintulu	750 - 858	216	1,150,000 - 1,815,000
Miri	From 600	NA	From 480,000

#### 3-star and above hotel Table 7

Region	Existing	Existing hotels		Under Construction		osed
	No.	Rooms	No.	Rooms	No.	Rooms
Kuching	26	4,728	6	>1500	8	1825 e
Sibu	5	1,022	0	0	0	0
Bintulu	4	592	1	336	2	186
Miri	7 *	1,290	0	0	1	560
Note : * 1	service apartment upgraded to hotel					

## STUTONG HEIGHTS APARTMENTS by Ibraco Group

**Stutong Heights Apartments** developed by Ibraco Berhad, comprises four 5-storey apartment blocks along Jalan Stampin Baru. The development is scheduled to contain a total of 272 units, with 8 units on each floor. Positioned near the Kuching International Airport, a specialist hospital, private and public schools as well as several commercial centres, the apartments would also be equipped with shaded parking lots, lifts, multi-purpose court, playground and a basketball court, to be managed by the developer.

The apartment unit ranges in size from 634.8 sq ft to 1054.4sq ft. with certain units in the block having a balcony. The price ranges from RM188,000 to RM289,000.

Source : The Borneo Post, 12/1/2013



A Mydin hypermarket

## CITY SQUARE by Timber Land Group

**City Square,** a mixed development by the Timber Land Group, is an integrated development which covers over 20 acres of land at Pending. The project includes 125 units of shop houses, 4 blocks of serviced apartments ranging from 9 to 15 storeys, shopping malls, office blocks and a 9-storey hotel.

The project is located just after the Tun Datuk Patinggi Abang Mohammed Salahuddin Bridge, at the intersection of Jalan Pending, Jalan Kwong Lee Bank and Jalan Sungai Apong, between the Icom Square, a large commercial centre development and The Isthmus.

90 per cent of the shop houses at Phase 1 was sold within the first month of the launch and is currently under construction with the shop houses targeted to complete by end of this year while the 9-storey serviced apartment and 10-storey office block will be completed by 2015. Phase 2 of the Aft. Aft. Markinges Artist Impression of Stutong Heights Apartments in Kuching

## 3 HYPERMARKETS for Sarawak by Mydin

Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd is investing about RM450 million to set up a hypermarket each at the Isthmus, Samariang New Township and Vista Tunku, in Kuching over the next 30 months, with agreements signed with CMS Land Sdn Bhd and Projek Bandar Samariang Sdn Bhd for the hypermarkets at Isthmus and Samariang respectively. The 1<sup>st</sup> Mydin hypermarket at Samariang is slated to be ready by mid 2014 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Isthmus to be completed by end 2015. According to Mydin, the hypermarket at Vista Tunku would take a longer period to complete as it would incorporate a large warehouse.

After Kuching, Mydin would be considering setting up outlets in Miri, Bintulu and Sibu.

Source : BERNAMA dd 14/1/2013



An Artist impression of City Square Phase 2

project will consist of 75 units of 3 and 4-storey shop houses and an approved 9-storey 385-room hotel.

The crown of the development will be The Sphere Complex, a 15 storey-shopping complex and serviced apartment that is planned to commence in 2017.

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## The WHARF for Miri coastline by Unique Harvest



A 24-storey hotel, an 18-storey residential suite and 10 units of 3-storey shophouse with a total gross development value of RM400mil will be built at the Miri Waterfront. A joint effort between developer Unique Harvests Sdn Bhd and contractor Sara-Timur Sdn Bhd., the entire project is scheduled to be completed in two-and-a-half years, with completion anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2015.

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase comprises an 18-storey private strata-titled suites called **the Wharf** with 192 private units having a 99 year leasehold with 2+1 bedroom units from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor onwards, and offers modern lifestyle facilities on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor such as swimming pool, Sky Garden, gym, aerobics room, multipurpose hall, pool deck, and BBQ pits. The suites are priced between RM800,000 and RM1mil depending on location and furnishing.

The hotel consists of 328 rooms and suites, and will include facilities such as a ballroom with a seating for up to 1,000 people, six other function rooms, all with modern meeting facilities, an infinity pool with pool deck and children's pool, a spa with sauna, steam room and jacuzzi, gym and aerobics, F&B outlets, including coffee house with a modern open buffet concept and executive lounge on the 24th floor.

Source : The Star, 7/3/2013

## 96 units of Sovo at BINTULU PARAGON by Naim



About 96 units of small office versatile office (Sovo) at **Bintulu Paragon**, which is priced from RM268,000, was launched for sale by Naim Land Sdn Bhd. Located above the proposed Bintulu Paragon's Street Mall would put the SOVO units only a walk away from a plethora of cafes, restaurants, IT stores, stationers, entertainment outlets and other conveniences.

A Developer Interest Bearing Scheme (DIBS) was made available whereby buyers will be required to pay only between 10% and 15% first and nothing else until the units are completed after three years. The Sovo would add versatility to the Bintulu Paragon with potential for capital appreciation as they can convert it into an apartment or office.

Bintulu Paragon, upon completion, will be home to a stylish Street Mall with 1.4 million sq feet of retail space, the tallest condominium, Sovo suites, hotels, corporate office towers and office suites.

Source : The Borneo Post, 8/4/2013

### FINDINGS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME SURVEY 2012

## Mean monthly household income and annual growth rate by State, Malaysia 2009 & 2012

State	2009	2012	Annual Growth Rate (%)
WP KL	5,488	8,586	14.9
WP Putrajaya	6,747	8,101	6.1
Selangor	5,962	7,023	5.5
WP Labuan	4,407	6,317	12.0
P Pinang	4,407	5,055	4.6
Melaka	4,184	4,759	4.3
Johor	3,835	4,658	6.5
N Sembilan	3,540	4,576	8.6
Sarawak	3,581	4,293	6.0
Sabah	3,102	4,013	8.6
Terengganu	3,017	3,967	9.1
Pahang	3,279	3,745	4.4
Perak	2,809	3,548	7.8
Perlis	2,617	3,538	10.1
Kedah	2,667	3,425	8.3
Kelantan	2,536	3,168	7.4
Malaysia	4,025	5,000	7.2

#### Average Household Income 2009/2012



Source : Findings from the Household Income Survey 2012, Dept of Source : Household Income Survey 2012, Dept of Statistics Malaysia Statistics

The mean monthly household income for Sarawak had grown from RM3,581 in 2009 to RM4,293 last year, an increase of 6% per annum which was still lower than the average national growth of 7.2% with mean national household income at RM5,000, seen over the same period of 2009-2012 compared to 4.4% growth in the 2007-2009 period. When taking the federal territories of Kuala Lumpur, Putra Jaya and Labuan as contributing entities, Sarawak ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of 16 in terms of mean monthly household income, behind even Melaka, Johor and Negeri Sembilan.

Among the incidence of poverty, Sarawak has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest incidence of poverty and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest incidence of hardcore poor amongst the states in Malaysia.



## Mean monthly household income by strata, Malaysia (2009 & 2012)

	2009	2012	Annual growth (%)
Malaysia	4,025	5,000	7.2
Urban	4,705	5,742	6.6
Rural	2,545	3,080	6.4

Source : Household Income Survey 2012, Dept of Statistics Malaysia

#### Mean monthly household income for income groups

Income Group	2009	2012	
Top 20%	9,987	12,159	
Middle 40%	3,631	4,573	
Bottom 40%	1,440	1,847	

Source : Household Income Survey 2012, Dept of Statistics Malaysia

#### Incidence of Poverty amongst the various States



Source : Household Income Survey 2012, Dept of Statistics Malaysia

## Projects Marketed by WTWY REAL ESTATE SDN BHD

## **KIDURONG GATEWAY**

**Developer :** Arcadia Properties Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Harbour-Link Group Berhad

Location : Jalan Kidurong

**Description**: Located at a prime area, the project comprises 60 units of commercial shophouses launched for phase 1 as part of a commercial centre planned to be near to Kidurong Industrial Estate and Samalaju Industrial Park. 54 units of semi-detached factory units will be launched for Phase 2.

Total land size for the development is about 100 acres currently with plans to include more shophouses, shopping mall, large-sized petrol station, large industrial lots and light industrial semi-detached units.

Sizes for the shophouse range from 1509sq ft (23ft x 65ft) to 2398sq ft (50ft x 65ft), Kidurong Gateway offers larger shophouse with latest design priced from RM1.135 million onwards.





Soft launching of the Kidurong Gateway on 23rd May 2013 at Harboulink Group Office



WTWY REAL ESTATE SDN BHD

According to Inside Investor in its "Inside Sarawak 2013" report, WTWY Real Estate Sdn Bhd has been listed as one of the TOP 10 REAL ESTATE COMPANIES IN SARAWAK......

Inside Sarawak was launched by the Chief Minister of Sarawak, Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud on 12th June

- TOP 10

2013.

PROPOSED 2-STOREY SEMI-DETACHED INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ON LOT 1218, BLOCK 20, KEMENA LAND DISTRICT, AT JALAN KIDURONG, BINTULU.

PINNACLES BINTULU

PROPOSED 3-STOREY SHOPHOUSES ON LOT 1218, BLOCK 20, KEMENA LAND DISTRICT, AT JALAN KIDURONG, BINTULU.



**Pinnacles Location Plan** 

Night View

**Developer** : Sarawak Land (Kemena Park) Sdn Bhd, a member of Samling Strategic Corporation Sdn Bhd. **Location** : Jalan Tanjung Batu, Bintulu **Launched** : 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013 at RH Hotel **Description** : 27-storey high end condominium commanding paparamic views of the South China Sea and Bintulu

**Description** : 27-storey high end condominium commanding panoramic views of the South China Sea and Bintulu Town Centre, the 'Pinnacles' Condominium will set the record for being the two tallest residential blocks in the whole of Sarawak.

For more information on Project Marketing, please contact Mr Alex Lim – 017-8667711 or Ms Sandy Wong – 010-9738080.

## PINNACLES BINTULU (Cont'd)

Located adjacent to Parkcity Everly Hotel, the 'Pinnacle' is conveniently located in the vicinity of upcoming shopping and entertainment hubs of Parkcity, Berjaya and Medan Jaya Commercial Centres and close to other amenities like the Bintulu Hospital and Bintulu Airport which are only about 25km or 25 minutes' drive away.

Spread over 7.3 acres, the 'Pinnacle' site shares immediate frontage with the Bintulu Waterfront Promenade, which is beautifully landscaped with themed pavilions, children's playgrounds, exercise stations, jogging and bicycle tracks spanning 2.8km, accessible to both residents and guests of the 'Pinnacle' Condominium.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Condominium that comes with a Sky Garden on level 19 will have a 36-seater Movie Theatre, a Library with indoor and outdoor reading areas, a Children's Games and Computer Room, a series of lounges set amidst lush greenery, a Sky Bar and a Gymnasium.

As an exclusive residential haven, the 'Pinnacles' offers a combination of 3-bedroom, Duplex and Penthouse suites with expansive living and dining areas. For the environmentally conscious, each suite comes with LED lighting to reduce electricity consumption, and double-glazed tempered glass windows in-filled with inert gas to reduce heat gain while enjoying uncompromised views all-round.

TRIBECA KUALA LUMPUR





**Developer** : Bakti Dinamik Sdn Bhd (Subsidiary of Low Yat Group) Location : Jalan Imbi opposite Ritz Carlton Hotel KL

**Description :** 5-10 mins walk to SEA's Shopping Paradise Pavilion KL and KLCC (via covered walkway), Starhill Gallery, Sg Wang, Lot 10, Low Yat Plaza, Farenheit 88. All roads lead to TRIBECA by Tun Razak Exchange and all main roads, with close proximity to Bukit Bintang and Imbi Monorail Stations, soon to be completed Bukit Bintang and Pasar Raya MRT stations.

## JAZZ SUITES KUCHING



Developer : Coramax Sdn. Bhd. Location : Jalan Wan Alwi, Tabuan Jaya, Kuching

**Description** : Sits on top of Vivacity Megamall which has a total net lettable area of 1.2 million sq feet (biggest mall in Kuching) and accessible to the Mall via lifts. Mall will be bringing in international and regional brands. Complete with rooftop landscaped garden, car parks and lap pool. 3-tier security system with CCTVs installed at strategic locations. Close to Swinburne University, Inti College, Segi College and Sunway College. Sales Status : Jazz 1 and 2 sold out.

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#### **RUBBER ROAD WEST** 2-Storey Semi-Detached House Land Area : 7.32 pts Selling price :

Remarks





**STAMPIN** 2-Storey Semi-Detached House Land Area : 8.26 pts Term Of Title : Until 1/7/2047 Selling price : RM650,000.00 Remarks

: Well maintained



**STAPOK** 2-Storey Intermediate Terraced House

:	4.38 pts
:	12/9/2071
:	RM520,000.00
:	Modern design
	:



**CENTRAL ROAD** 2-Storey Semi-Detached House Land Area : 9.8 pts Term Of Title : 999 years Selling price : RM480,000.00 Remarks : Well maintained



NANAS ROAD WEST 2-Storey Intermediate Terraced House

Land Area 6.2 pts Term Of Title : 31/12/2038 Selling price : RM390,000.00 Remarks : With Extension



JLN KAPOR 2-Storey Corner Terraced House Land Area : 8 pts Selling price : RM550,000.00 Furnished, renovated Remarks • & well maintained



JLN LAKSAMANA CHENG HO 2-Storey Semi-Detached House

Land Area Selling price : Remarks

: 17.81 pts Term Of Title : Until 31/10/2061 RM1.500.000 : Nice landscaping, Extra large built-up



**TMN STUTONG** 2-Storey Semi-Detached House Land Area : 11.26 pts Term Of Title : Perpetuity Selling price : RM1,290,000 : Extra large, Furnished Remarks

RENT



JLN SATOK (For Rent) 4-storey corner & intermediate shophouses

No of Units	:	3
Rental p.m.	:	R١
Remarks	:	Wi
		ma

//32.000 ith lift, facing ain road



7 <sup>™</sup> MILE (For Rent)						
3-storey Showroom						
Built-Up area	:	16,464 sf				
Rental p.m.	:	RM24,000				
Remarks	:	Facing main road				



### **DEMAK LAUT IND PARK (For Rent)** Semi Detached industrial factories

No. of Units	:	2
Land Area	:	1.5 acs
Built Up Area	:	18,000 sf. each
Rental p.m.	:	RM12,000.00 each
Remarks	:	Large area



**JLN KULAS (For Rent)** 4-storey intermediate shophouses No. of Units : 2 Built Up Area : 20' x 60' Rental p.m. : RM12,000.00 Remarks : Facing main road

Tel: 082-236111 / 428436

For further enquiries, kindly contact : WTWY Real Estate Sdn Bhd.

## DEVELOPMENT OF OIL PALM PLANTATION IN SARAWAK

Development of large scale commercial plantations in Sarawak can generally be divided into development of :

- 1. State Land; and
- 2. Native Customary Rights (NCR) land.

The State Government plays an active role by inviting potential investors to Sarawak to develop the arable and rural areas in order to generate economic benefits and improve infrastructure in Sarawak. The Government hopes to expand its oil palm plantation area from 1.2 million hectares to 2 million hectares in 5 years.

Under the current law, only TEMUDA i.e. land cleared from virgin jungle, farmed and occupied prior to 1958, is recognized as NCR land.

Owner	Hectarage	%
Private Companies	973,700	80.16%
Govt Agencies (State and Federal)	102,100	8.41%
Smallholders	76,900	6.33%
NCR land development	62,000	5.10%



Source : Oil Palm National Seminar, June 2013

## New Concept of NCR land development

- Started in 1997
- JV involving the investors, land owners and the Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA) as trustee on behalf of the land owners at a shareholding ratio of 60:30:10
- Land alienated to the Joint Venture Company (JVC) for a period of 60 years at an agreed value representing the equity portion of the land owners in the JVC. The investors and LCDA will inject cash at the agreed proportion.
- 5 aspects involved :
  - i. Gazetted Area Land has to be declared as Development Area under Sec 11 of the LCDA Ordinance 1981 which can cover alienated, non-alienated and Native Customary Land (NCL)
  - ii. Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) A JVA is signed between Pelita Holdings SB and the investor
  - iii. Principle Deed Signed between the government, LCDA/PHSB and the NCR land owners
  - iv. Trust Deed LCDA/PHSB declares its holding shares in a JVC as trustee for the NCR owners
  - v. Deemed native status Persons/companies involved in the development of the Development Area must be natives or deemed native for the purpose of holding land under the Sarawak Land Code.

### Price Trend of Crude Palm Oil : 1991 - 2013





#### 4500.00 4000.00 3500.00 3000.00 2500.00 Price (RM/tonne) 2000.00 Production 1500.00 ('000 tonnes) 1000.00 500.00 0.00 Sep-09 Jan-10 May-10 Sep-10 Jan-11 May-11 Jan-08 May-08 Sep-08 Jan-09 May-09 Sep-11 Jan-12 May-12 Sep-12 Jan-13 May-13 Jan-07 May-07 Sep-07 12 Sep-

0 M M 0 D I T I E S

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## ECONOMY

## Malaysia on track to 4.5%-5.5% GDP growth

With the strong backing of private investment and consumption, Malaysia is on track to achieve an economic growth of 4.5% to 5.5% per annum. Dragged down by weak export performance, Malaysia's first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) managed to expand at only 4.1% which was still commendable in the midst of global economic slowdown whereby other medium to high income economies grew at 1% to 2%.

Source : Business Times, 30/5/2013

## Bank Negara maintains Overnight Policy Rate at 3%

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) will maintain the Overnight Policy Rate at 3% deemed appropriate given the outlook for inflation and growth. On the external front, global economy continued to see slow growth, with growth remaining weak in advanced economies. For the Malaysian economy, domestic demand has continued to support growth amid the continued moderation in external demand. The sustained weakness in the external sector may, however, affect the overall growth momentum.

Private consumption is expected to remain steady underpinned by income growth and stable labour market conditions. Capital spending in the domestic-oriented industries and the ongoing implementation of infrastructure projects will also support investment activity.

It was reported that inflation remained low at 1.6% in the first five months of the year. While inflation is expected to rise in the  $2^{nd}$  half of the year due to domestic supply and cost factors, it is projected to remain modest.

Source : The Star, 11/7/2013

## Malaysia tightens household credit lendings

Malaysia's central bank has imposed measures on household lending, including limits to loan tenures, in order to reign in "excessive" consumer borrowing and curb property speculation. Bank Negara noted that the household debt has expanded rapidly over the last five years, increasing by 12 percent a year, resulting in a high household debt to GDP ratio of 83%, the highest in emerging Asia.

Bank Negara Malaysia's tighter measures include :

- i. Personal loans of up to a maximum of 10 years only;
- ii. Financing for both residential and non-residential properties to have a maximum payback term not exceeding 35 years from 25 years and 45 years respectively.
- iii. Lending limits set for new borrowers, especially those with lower incomes, at 60% of their monthly take home pay.
- iv. A ban on "pre-approved personal financing products" such as unsolicited loan and credit card offers with immediate effect.

Investment analysts described the measures as positive for the economy as it would help prevent a "possible bubble burst" in the household debt if consumers continue to enjoy easy borrowings.

There will unlikely be a possible interest rate hike as this move might hurt growth in the export dependent country amid the weak global economy. Malaysia's economy is expected to grow 5-6 percent this year powered by strong domestic demand.

Source : Various newspaper sources, 5/7/2013

## **PROPERTY NEWS**

## Future property trends to consider in Sarawak

According to Inside Investor, apart from being boosted by large-scale property developments in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors, the real estate market in Sarawak is also likely to grow on certain trends, one of which is the rising demand for green housing, whereby the concern for sustainable energy was promoting ecofriendly housing projects. Green components included recreational facilities such as open green space and the use of solar powered lights, and heating as well as using recycled water. This is made more viable in Sarawak since it has an advantage due to abundant solar energy and power from its many rivers. A green building can allow its owners to save 10 to 20 per cent on energy consumption. Malaysia introduced the Green Building Index (GBI), which focuses on energy efficiency, indoor environment quality, sustainable site planning and management, material and resources efficiency as well as design innovation.

Another point which was also relevant was the affordability of properties for house buyers and developers. The report also outlined the increasing trend for small office-home office (SOHO) properties in the state, a "stay where you work" concept, in view of rising costs and increasing number of small enterprises entering the economy.

Other sectors of the property segment in Sarawak are niche developments such as lifestyle housing, retirement villages and developments under the umbrella of the Malaysia My Second Home programme. Based on the sector overviews, scaled from 1 to 5, 1 being highly recomendable and 5 meaning high-risk territory, the attractiveness of investing in the real estate sector in Sarawak was ranked a **2 by Inside Investor**.

## Skyrocketing house prices not a deterrent

According to Sarawak Housing and Real Estate Developers' Association (Sheda), skyrocketing prices for houses in Sarawak have not stopped the industry from experiencing a boom. As long as there is demand, developers will constantly be looking for land to build new developments. The predicament is to find suitable land for development especially in Sibu where soil conditions are not that favourable.

Currently, a double-storey terraced house unit costs from RM350,000 to RM400,000 depending on its location, while a single-storey terraced house would start at RM250,000. A semi-detached double-storey house would cost from RM500,000 to RM600,000, while a fully furnished unit could even go for RM700,000 per unit. SHEDA admitted that the prices are too exorbitant for most potential purchasers, especially those from the lower or middle-income groups. However, the forces of market will even out eventually.

Demand for shophouses is also on the rise but location remained the main factor. It was noted that shophouses at Tun Ahmad Zaidi Road and Salim Road roundabout in Sibu were popular with many units snapped up quickly mainly due to its good location with RM900,000 per unit when first constructed would easily breach the RM1 million mark today.

More affordable houses would be built to cater to the needs of the lower and medium-income earners, an example of which is the Sunview Housing Estate, located near Sibu Airport, adjacent to Sibu Jaya Township, about 26km from here. The project includes 270 double-storey terraced houses ranging between RM180,000 and RM300,000.

Source : The Borneo Post, June 8, 2013, Monday



WTWY Kuching Office will soon be moving to its new premise at No.26 and No.27, Lot 352 Section 54 at Wisma Nation Horizon, Jalan Petanak, Kuching w.e.f. 9th September, 2013 to better serve its clients and customers whom WTWY is grateful to for their many years of

WTWY New Contacts : General - 082-231 331 (tel) 082-231 991 (fax)

Estate Agency – 082-236 111 (tel) 082-236 116 (fax)

## WTWY New Staff for 1t Half 2013

Town	Staff Name	Date of Commencement	Position
Kuching	Zulfika Abdulah Maghribi	17/06/2013	Clerical Assistant cum Despatch



## WTWY TRAINING



WTWY Workshop @ Dorsett Hotel, Kuching (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> December 2012)



WTWY Workshop @ Harbour View Hotel, Kuching (12th-13th July 2013)



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