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**COMMUNITY INTERACTION & INTERPERSONAL TRUST IN LOW  
COST RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD: BANDAR BARU  
SEMARIANG, KUCHING, SARAWAK**

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# **COMMUNITY INTERACTION & INTERPERSONAL TRUST IN LOW COST RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD: BANDAR BARU SAMARIANG, KUCHING, SARAWAK**

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## **Introduction**

Low cost housing is one of the ways in which the Government addresses the issues of housing shortages especially in urban areas. It has been in the forefront of the Government's agenda since Independence and gained momentum under the administration of the second Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak as well as the establishment of the New Economic Policy. It was introduced with the main intention of ensuring that everyone, in particular those from the low income groups, has access to decent and adequate shelter.

The residents of low cost housing schemes are normally from the same income bracket but with differing cultural, religious and ethnic background. This paper aims to examine the community interaction and interpersonal trust in low cost residential setting. Community or social interaction, either formal or informal, is important as it is seen as the basis for social cohesion (Middleton et al, 2005). The key question that this paper is trying to address is whether the people from similar income group but differing social backgrounds interact with each other and trust their neighbours. This paper also seeks to identify the factors that encourage social interaction and interpersonal trust as well as highlighting the obstacles (if any) which could hinder interaction and the development of interpersonal trusts among neighbours in a low cost residential neighbourhood.

For the purpose of this paper, a case study of the low cost housing neighbourhood in Bandar Baru Samariang, Kuching will be used to illustrate the findings.