

# POOR INFRASTRUCTURE BEHIND LOW HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN

## SABAH

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### INTRODUCTION

Infrastructures are the physical and institutional systems that support society. Therefore, the state of Sabah in Malaysia has long been plagued by a myriad of challenges that hinder its socio-economic development, with one of the most significant obstacles being the poor infrastructure that hampers the growth of human capital. Then, without a complete infrastructure, modern industrialized life would not be possible.

### MAIN ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

#### 1 Education and Skill Development

Sabah have the recorded **second highest number (25.8%)** of schools in rural area in Malaysia. Lack of infrastructure in rural area's school limits students' ability to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge.

#### 2 Rural-Urban Divide

**55% of Sabahans live in rural areas**, making it more challenging for people to find jobs as there are fewer opportunities there. This is significant factor in the disparity of human capital development.

#### 3 Difficulty Attracting Large Investors

Poor infrastructure in Sabah, has resulted in the loss of billions in potential investments. Sabah's inadequate infrastructure has stunted economic growth, with **50% of businesses having five workers or fewer**, according to Sabah Employers Association president Yap Cheen Boon.

#### 4 Hinders Access To Healthcare

Sabah has the **lowest number of doctors per 1,000 population in Malaysia at 0.6**, compared to the national average of 1.5, and a higher infant mortality rate of 8.1 per 1,000 live births, indicating the challenges in accessing quality healthcare services.



### IMPACT

Poor infrastructure hinder human capital development

- **Education** - difficult for individuals, especially those in rural and remote areas, to reach educational institutions, leading to lower school attendance and limited access to vocational training (Daily Express Malaysia, 2024).
- **Healthcare** - struggle to access medical facilities for routine care which lead to untreated health issues, lower life expectancy, and reduced productivity (Amanda Yeo, 2020),

### STRATEGIC

- National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan (NFCP 1)
- National Digital Network (JENDELA)
- Sabah Power Supply Generation Development Plan (2022-2041)
- Upgradation of rural infrastructure
- High-impact programme

### RECOMMENDATION

- **Improve Education Accessibility**
  - Set up community learning center
  - Provide school bus service
- **Improve Transportation Network**
  - Build road and bridge
  - Provide public transportation service

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the presence of poor infrastructure in Sabah presents a significant barrier to the development of human capital. Lack of education, rural-urban divide, difficulty in attracting investors and healthcare infrastructure hinders access to essential services, educational opportunities, and economic participation.

### REFERENCE

Naveen Prabu, 2023. "Poor Infrastructure Leads to High Unemployment, Says Sabah Bosses' Group." Free Malaysia Today (FMT), [www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2023/08/26/poor-infrastructure-leads-to-high-unemployment-says-sabah-bosses-group/](http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2023/08/26/poor-infrastructure-leads-to-high-unemployment-says-sabah-bosses-group/).