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## 'Effects of govt stimulus will kick in to boost property market in 2019'

KUALA LUMPUR: Real estate consultancy firm Rahim & Co expects the property market to record mixed performance in 2019 as the incentives provided by the government begin to show results.

Its director of research, Sulaiman Saheh said in the first half (1H) of 2018, the property market experienced softer decline of 2.4pc year on year (yoy) in comparison with the 6.1pc drop in the 1H of 2017.

He was speaking to the media after the launch of Rahim & Co's 2018/2019 Property Review here.

"Looking at the past five-year trend, transaction activities have fallen at a slower rate thus showing that the lower end of the cycle is coming to an end – as had been anticipated by all within the property market," said Sulaiman.

The existing supply of residential units for Malaysia stands at approximately 5.51 million units at the end of 2018 with Selangor having the largest proportion with 1.52 million houses while Johor has 800,000 units.

In Budget 2019, the government had introduced a few measures to address the overhang in the property market. These initiatives include allocation of funds to build affordable homes, assistance for first time home buyers, stamp duty exemptions and property crowdfunding. These measures are expected to spur demand in the property market and their effects will be felt in 2019.