



WELCOME SPEECH

**YB DATUK WIRA HALIMAH BINTI MOHAMED SADIQUE
DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN WELLBEING, HOUSING AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**URBAN BREAKFAST SESSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE UP-COMING WORLD URBAN FORUM 9**

19TH DECEMBER 2017

**MAYOR'S COURTYARD, KUALA LUMPUR TOURISM
BUREAU,
JALAN TANGSI, KUALA LUMPUR**

Thank you Chairman, Assalamualaikum w.b.t and Good Morning

- His Excellency and Her Excellency of Ambassadors in Malaysia;
- Your Excellences, Heads of Diplomatic Missions' in Malaysia
- Honorable Deputies Secretary General of Ministry Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government;
 - ✓ Mr. Khairul Dzaimie Daud, Deputy Secretary General of Management ; and
 - ✓ Mr. Zamri Salleh, Deputy Secretary General of Urban Wellbeing
- Honorable Director General of PLANMalaysia – Federal Department of Town and Country Planning, Madam Rokibah Abdul Latif;
- Distinguished Chief Executive Officers of Foreign Corporations in Malaysia'
- Distinguished Representative from Embassies offices in Malaysia;
- Distinguished Chief Executive Urbanice Malaysia, Madam Norliza Hashim;
- Distinguished Miss Ana Moreno, Spokesperson and Chief, Advocacy, Outreach and Communications UN-Habitat;
- Distinguished Representatives of International Organization;
- Distinguished Guests; and
- Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you to an **Urban Breakfast Session with Embassies and International Bodies in Kuala Lumpur**. I would like to congratulate Ministry of Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government and URBANICE MALAYSIA (Centre of Excellence for Urban Well-being) is the local secretariat and focal point for World Urban Forum 9 (WUF9) **which be held in Kuala Lumpur on 7-13 February 2018**.

2. I would like to convey my deepest appreciation on behalf of the Government of Malaysia to United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for giving the opportunity to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to host the WUF9. The forum is convened by UN-Habitat, has been affirmed as the premier global platform for discussing the interrelated challenges and opportunities of sustainable urban development.

3. WUF9 would be of particular relevance to the monitoring of implementation of New Urban Agenda after the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 at Quito, Ecuador. The contribution and involvement of Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia in this debate would bring new perspectives and experiences, as well as increase awareness, to the role of cities and human settlements, including rapid urbanization and their impact on cities, communities, economies, and climate change.

4. The Urban Breakfast is to share details of the event with distinguished ambassadors and international bodies that are here in Malaysia and we are honored to have your presence. Urban Breakfasts have been one of the most powerful engagement tools in the run-up to Habitat III. They not only connected member states and stakeholders with the UN and the Habitat III process, but also helped to create a “Habitat III community” by connecting urban actors. The role of Urban Breakfasts beyond Quito is to further engage these communities and help shape the narrative of WUF9 and the implementation of New Urban Agenda in a manner that resonates strongly with specific local contexts.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The WUF9 is the biggest major international event to address human settlements, including rapid urbanization and its impact on cities, communities, economies, climate change and policies. It meets every two years, and participation has increased to around 25,000 attendees from all over the world. For the past seven series of the World Urban Forum that had taken place, it was once held in Asia that was in Nanjing, China in the year 2008. The Government of Malaysia welcomes WUF back in Asia and 1st in the ASEAN region. Kuala Lumpur is ready to become the showcase to support the Post 2015 UN-Habitat Declaration which gives emphasis to the sustainable development agenda at the local level.
6. It is our aspiration to host WUF9 in Kuala Lumpur and we pledge our commitment to the Sustainable Development Agenda and the wellbeing of urban communities across the board. We believe that Malaysia can become a showcase of initiatives related to the betterment of urban planning and actions. Hopefully, this legacy by WUF9 will facilitate research, knowledge exchange and promote international debate regarding sustainable urban development and bring together a broad international consortium of partners, consisting of government agencies, United Nations agencies, state government and local governments, NGOs, CBO's, universities, researchers, the private and public sector.
7. We are targeting 25,000 participants to be in Kuala Lumpur during the WUF9 sharing on urban issues and solutions as well as enjoying the

city of Kuala Lumpur's booming economy, vitality and uniqueness. Therefore we would like to invite **Embassies, Head of Missions and International Bodies in Kuala Lumpur** to attend and participate in WUF9 and share our initiatives, knowledge and experiences in urban development with other 193 United Nations member states.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. WUF9 will bring together thousands of stakeholders to share practices and knowledge on how cities are built, planned and managed. WUF9 participants will include representatives of: national, regional and local governments; NGOs; community-based organizations; research institutions and academies; the private sector; development finance institutions; foundations; the media; and UN organizations and other international agencies. Madam Norliza will explain detail about WUF9 and its 7 days programmes.

9. In the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III in 2016, participating States request the report of the implementation of the Agenda to incorporate, to the extent possible, the inputs of multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia, and to build on existing platforms such as the WUF, convened by the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). **Themed 'Cities 2030, Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda,'** WUF9 will be the first session to focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

10. WUF9 will seek to provide substantive inputs for the first report of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Forum is expected to enhance the common vision on sustainable urban development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by contributing to implementation of concrete solutions for the commitments made in the New Urban Agenda, which are fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The New Urban Agenda commitments include ensuring: sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty; sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all; and environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. It is our aspiration to host WUF9 in Kuala Lumpur and we pledge our commitment to the Sustainable Development Agenda and the wellbeing of urban communities across the board. We trust Malaysia can become a showcase of initiatives related to the betterment of urban planning and actions.
12. WUF9 will aim to, inter alia: raise awareness of sustainable urbanization among stakeholders; improve the collective knowledge of sustainable urban development through open debates, sharing of lessons learned, and the exchange of urban solutions and good policies; increase coordination and cooperation between different stakeholders and constituencies for the implementation of sustainable urbanization; and incorporate the inputs of multilateral organizations and stakeholders into the reporting of the New Urban Agenda implementation.

13. Finally, I would like to invite **Embassies, Head of Missions and International Bodies in Kuala Lumpur** to attend and participate in WUF9 and share our initiatives, knowledge, experiences and discussion on the interrelated challenges and opportunities of sustainable urban development with other 193 United Nations member states. During WUF9, let's celebrate the festival of ideas on the implementing New Urban Agenda.

14. Now that I have come to the end of my welcome speech, I would like to express my warmest thanks to the organisers of **Urban Breakfast Session with Embassies and International Bodies in Kuala Lumpur**, my ministry KPKT and Urbanice Malaysia. A special thank you goes to Madam Norliza Hashim and her team and Miss Ana Moreno of UN Habitat. Without their assistance this meeting (Urban Breakfast) would not have been possible to arrange.

15. We truly look forward to welcoming the delegates of WUF9 in 2018 to Kuala Lumpur a land that offers vibrant experiences with open arms, warmth and best of care. We are expecting your participation in WUF9 next year.

Thank You