

# Zuraida: Public housing could include smart, wellness and sustainable features

THE EDGE MARKETS | October 03, 2019 23:01 pm +08



TOKYO (Oct 3): It is time to incorporate smart, sustainable and wellness technologies into public housing in Malaysia to enhance the health and quality of life of their residents, said Housing and Local Government (KPKT) Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

Citing indoor air quality as an example, she said Malaysia could learn from Japan, which has been regulating indoor ventilation through its Building Standard Law since July 2003.

“Maybe there will be something that we can modify to our standards in order to ensure that the B40 or the masses also enjoy the basic right to having quality air,” she told EdgeProp.my after attending a briefing in Tokyo on the Japanese housing market and building regulations by officials from the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism this morning.

Under the Japan Building Standard Law, all habitable rooms must have windows and other openings for ventilation, otherwise, ventilation equipment must be installed.

Furthermore, buildings with ceiling cavities that contain formaldehyde must be installed with equipment designed to allow harmful chemical compounds to be removed when the emission level is too high.

These are among measures implemented by the Japanese government to tackle the Sick House Syndrome, which could cause inhabitants in newly built or renovated houses to fall ill due to volatile organic compounds emanating from building materials and furniture.

Zuraida is currently in Japan on an EdgeProp Malaysia Study Tour on Excellent Building Sustainability, Management and Wellness 2019. The study tour, which also saw the