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## PRESS RELEASE

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### HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER OPENS MALAYSIA URBAN FORUM 2021 WITH BETTER CITIES FOR ALL WITH COVID-19

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**KUALA LUMPUR, 6 September 2021** – Malaysia Urban Forum 2021 (MUF2021) opens today and was officiated by The Secretary General of The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT), YBhg. Datuk Zainal Abidin bin Abu Hassan with a strong call in building better cities for all with COVID-19. This year's MUF2021 is Malaysia's third urban forum hosted by URBANICE Malaysia, a CLBG under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Happening from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, MUF2021 is **the biggest urban forum to take place this year with 53 online sessions and involving more than 350 speakers and panellists nationwide**, and gathered more than 100 partners locally and internationally.

The event is a milestone for Malaysia, as it continues to organise its national urban forum amidst the continuing pandemic. The focus and theme of this year's MUF2021 is **'Sustainable Urban Nation: Better Cities for All With COVID-19'**. As Malaysians embrace the 'new normal', it has become even more critical to continue the dialogues towards achieving concrete, equitable and impactful outcomes for sustainable urbanisation together. Since its inception, MUF has been a platform that has garnered rich and diverse input among local stakeholders and endowed with important knowledge, views and sharing from local participants and global partners alike.

The urban forum aims to promote discussions and the sharing of solutions towards addressing the current challenges of urbanisation and how we can build back better as we address the wide-ranging needs of societies in our cities. This is a great opportunity for cities to realise their sustainability goals and to address recovery measures that are more inclusive and more resilient.

MUF2021 will be anchored in understanding and analysing critically the social issues, economic uncertainty and the many existing urban challenges magnified by the ongoing health crisis. The urban forum will hence be a space that welcomes holistic problem-solving from all levels of society. The main outcome from MUF2021's multi-stakeholders dialogue will be the **Declared Actions on Better Cities for All** which will pave the way for becoming a Sustainable Urban Nation by 2030.

MUF2021 will also be a platform to further advance discussions, where outcomes from this forum will be brought to various levels of discussions at ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF), Quito+5 Regional Partners Forum, Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, High-Level Meeting on New Urban Agenda, and World Urban Forum 11.

Attended by over \*10,000 virtual participants from all around the world in the past, MUF gathers policymakers, expert speakers, thought leaders from national and local government, private sectors, research communities and civil societies. The three-day event features sessions such as High-Level Dialogues, Roundtables, Special Sessions, Networking Events, and Stakeholder Assemblies (City Leaders, Business, Women, Grassroots, and Youth) as well as dedicated sessions for Shah Alam City Forum.

Other dignitaries that attended the opening ceremony today was Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Dato' Seri Paduka Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and TPr. Ts. Norliza Hashim, the CEO of URBANICE Malaysia. The main partner of MUF2021 is Shah Alam City Council. While the event global partners are the UN-Habitat, UN-ESCAP and United Cities and Local Government Asia-Pacific (UCLG).

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*Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) yang terdiri daripada lapan Jabatan/agensi kerajaan iaitu 1. Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia, 2. Jabatan Perumahan Negara, 3. Jabatan Kerajaan Tempatan, 4. Jabatan Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal Negara, 5. PlanMalaysia, 6. Jabatan Landskap Negara, 7. Tribunal Perumahan dan Pengurusan Strata dan 8. Institut Latihan Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan. Agensi lain di bawah KPKT ialah Solid Waste Corporation Malaysia (SWCorp), Urbanice Malaysia, Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB) dan Perbadanan PRIMA Malaysia.*

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