

30/08/2015 - Malaysia Public Policy Competition (MPPC) Closing Ceremony 2015

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Good Evening and Salam 1Malaysia.

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr. Tam Weng Wah,
Deputy Secretary-General (Policy and Development), Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and
Local Government;

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah,
CEO of the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF);

Yang Berbahagia Brigadier General Datuk Goh Seng Toh,
Vice President of the National House Buyers Association (HBA);

Yang Berusaha Dr. Elizabeth Lee,
Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University;

Esteemed guests and distinguished participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

OPENING REMARKS

1. I would like to thank the **International Council of Malaysian Scholars and Associates (ICMS)** for inviting me here today. It is my utmost pleasure to be able to join all of you on the joyful occasion of the closing ceremony of the Malaysia Public Policy Competition (MPPC) 2015.
2. I hope that the MPPC has been a fruitful and enjoyable experience for everyone, from the organisers to the participants, whom I understand have been staying up late for the past

two nights to come up with policies on affordable housing. For this, I commend ICMS and all of you for your effort in policy-making for the future of housing in Malaysia.

MALAYSIA PUBLIC POLICY COMPETITION

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. MPPC has been organised for the past 5 years, and has seen many bright young individuals actively participate in public policy discourse by creating innovative solutions to national issues.

4. I have been informed that over the past 3 days, various activities were held such as seminars, the Corporate Luncheon and the Internship Sharing session. Of the seminars, there were 4 sessions, namely public policy making, GST's impact on housing price, knowledge on house-buying and the housing bubble. I hope that the activities have been enlightening and informative for all of you, while being helpful in developing your respective policies.

5. The past 3 days have also seen many discussions take place on the issue of housing. The Government is pleased to see such an initiative like the MPPC and it is encouraging that all of you, the future leaders, are so passionate about issues that affect the country today.

PR1MA

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. Housing has always been one of the top priorities of the Government. Therefore, the **1Malaysia People's Housing Programme (PR1MA)** was introduced by the Honourable Prime Minister in 2011 to **plan, build and ensure high quality affordable housing for the middle-income group** in Malaysia. PR1MA's mandate is to build 500,000 units of market-quality houses that the middle-income can actually afford, and they are sold to them between the price range of RM150,000 to RM400,000 per unit.

7. Currently, PR1MA is aiming to complete the construction of **210,000 units of houses** throughout the whole country by 2018. As of now, **153,807 units have been approved for construction** with a total of 41,187 units being built.

PPA1M

8. The Government also introduced the **1Malaysia Civil Servants Housing Programme (PPA1M) in 2013** with the aim of assisting civil servants to own quality houses built in strategic locations. These houses are priced 20 percent less than the market price and it aims to finish constructing 100,000 units of houses by 2018. So far, **10,639 units under Phase 1** have been approved for construction in Putrajaya, where 6,672 units are currently being built.

9. Both of these programmes are the main core of the Government's effort to assist the rakyat to own homes, especially for the younger generation and those in the middle-income group. Through PR1MA and PPA1M, the Government hopes to solve the issue of housing in Malaysia, in line with the 11th Malaysia Plan and towards achieving our goal to be a high income developed nation by 2020.

1Malaysia Transit Homes

10. Another housing scheme which is known as the **1Malaysia Transit Homes** have been also introduced by the Government back in 2014. This scheme is targeted to assist newly-wed young couples in urban areas, with Bukit Jalil People's Housing Project (PPR) being the first

transit homes introduced. With monthly rental as low as RM250, the scheme has indeed been in demand.

11. Efforts by the Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government through the National Housing Department will further expand this scheme to other locations in various states.

CLOSING REMARKS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. I hope that while preparing for this competition, you will all leave with more knowledge about affordable housing and that all of you can contribute back towards assisting the Government on this matter. The fact that all of you are present here today shows that there is **much to be hopeful of future generations to take the lead**, and **be part of the solution** to this issue of affordable housing. I am inspired by this and I thank all of you for your efforts here today.

13. Before I end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank **International Council of Malaysian Scholars and Associates (ICMS)** once again for organising this enriching competition. I hope that this initiative will continue as a platform for the youth to discuss about public policies and policy-making.

14. With that, I now officially close the Malaysia Public Policy Competition (MPPC) 2015.

Thank you.

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

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