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WORLD CITIES DAY 2026: NGA KOR MING CALLS FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION TO DELIVER QUALITY HOUSING BASED ON FOUR KEY STANDARDS

President of the UN-Habitat Assembly and Malaysia's Minister of Housing and Local Government, YB Tuan Nga Kor Ming, today called for **stronger global cooperation to deliver quality housing based on four key standards: affordability, livability, connectivity and access to comprehensive amenities.**

Speaking at the **World Cities Day 2026 Forum on "Building High Quality Housing for the People" in Fuzhou, China**, Nga emphasised that achieving these standards requires close cooperation among governments, property developers, construction industry players and society at large.

"Housing should not merely be treated as a commodity for buying and selling, but as a place where every family can build a secure and stable life. We must not only ensure that people can afford to buy a home, but also that they can live with peace of mind, comfort and dignity," he said.

Nga stressed that quality housing must go hand in hand with inclusive and well-connected communities, supported by essential infrastructure such as public transportation, schools, hospitals, parks and community facilities.

"Good houses alone are not enough. We also need good communities. A neighbourhood filled with high-rise buildings but lacking human connection is nothing more than a concrete jungle," he said.

He also called for greater adoption of artificial intelligence, green building practices and smart construction technologies to improve construction quality, enhance energy efficiency and strengthen urban resilience against climate change and natural disasters.

"Urban development should not be measured merely by the number of skyscrapers built, but by whether people's quality of life has genuinely improved. This is the essence of people-centred urban development," he added.

Ipoh Accord to Strengthen ASEAN–China Cooperation

Nga also highlighted the Fourth ASEAN–China Ministerial Roundtable on Construction and Housing, held on 1 August 2026 in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia, where ASEAN and China reached the Ipoh Accord to deepen cooperation in housing and urban development.

The agreement focuses on three key areas: green buildings and low-carbon technologies, the rehabilitation of ageing buildings and urban renewal, and improvements to community living environments.

Nga expressed confidence that continued cooperation between Malaysia and China would strengthen bilateral relations while advancing mutually beneficial cooperation between ASEAN and China.

“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. Every house we build and every community we plan today must not only meet the needs of the generation today but also of the generations to come," he said.

He concluded by calling on governments and stakeholders worldwide to work together to build quality homes, harmonious communities and sustainable cities for future generations.

Also present at the forum were Member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee, Deputy Director of the Committee of Population, Resources and Environment, and China Civil Engineering Society (CCES) President Yi Jun; Russia’s Deputy Minister of Construction, Housing and Utilities Nikita Stasishin; Fujian Provincial CPPCC Committee Vice Chairperson Huang Ling; and Fujian Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Chief Engineer Chen Yixiong.

Thank you

YB NGA KOR MING
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FUZHOU, 1 NOVEMBER 2026

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