



BACKGROUND

ZURAIDA KAMARUDDIN

Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities
(MPIC) No. 15, Level 6-13, Persiaran Perdana, Precinct
2, 62654 Putrajaya, MALAYSIA.

0388803302

zuraida.kamaruddin@gmail.com

The Hon. Zuraida Binti Kamaruddin is currently the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) of Malaysia, beginning in August 2021 under the new government led by Prime Minister Ismail Sabri. Already, she has made her intentions clear to align the agri-commodities sector of Malaysia with the circular economy. This is her third time holding a Cabinet position in the Malaysian government. In May 2018, she was the first woman Minister of Housing and Local Government (MHLG) of Malaysia, a position she notably held through two successive governments.

As the minister of MHLG, she made her mark by reforming housing policies to improve living conditions such as enlarging government-subsidised homes from 700 to 900-square feet and transforming the rent-to-own (RTO) government schemes to make home ownership more accessible, especially for first-time buyers and B40 groups to middle-income earners. Under her leadership, the MHLG also made rapid improvements to the country's waste management policies, community credit facilities (money lenders) and increased the number of women in the local councils and the fire department.

Zuraida's assertive voice has been a fixture of Malaysian politics for almost two decades. She is a vocal and prominent champion of women's empowerment, and stateless children, being staunchly opposed to underage marriage, domestic violence, sexual harassment and gender discrimination. She played a major role in exposing the 'Rape of the Penan Women', by courageously championing the rights of the indigenous Penan women in the state of Sarawak who were being sexually exploited and threatened by illegal loggers.

In 2018, Zuraida was appointed as the Women Political Leaders (WPL) Country Ambassador to Malaysia. In continuing her life's work, she has pledged to mainstream gender parity and to increase the number of women's participation in all levels of decision-making in Malaysia to at least 30 percent.

Where the environment is concerned, Zuraida seeks to successfully balance economic growth with environmental protection. She believes that through education and awareness programmes, and especially through instilling good habits in the younger generation,

communities would be able to care for their immediate surroundings and inculcate good habits such as moving the society away from the culture of consumption, reducing waste, reusing and recycling resources and products.

Zuraida was born on 14 March 1958 and received her early education at the Girl's School in Tanjong Katong before pursuing her high school education at the prestigious Raffles Institution in Singapore. As a champion debater and country representative for international softball competitions until 1983, Zuraida has the passion and drive few can match up to. Prior to entering politics, she was working in the customer research, marketing, advertising and insurance industry in Malaysia and overseas. This stint in the corporate world in multinational companies based in Australia, USA, Japan and Taiwan, laid the foundation for her career in politics.

CAREER

- Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities
- Minister of Housing and Local Government
- Member of Parliament for Ampang, Selangor
- Woman Chief of Pakatan Harapan
- Chairwoman of the Selangor Woman's Institute of IWB (Institut Wanita Berdaya)
- Founder and Chairwoman of Women's Initiative for Research, Development and Advancement (WIRDA)
- Malaysian Ambassador for Women Political Leaders (WPL)

- Advisor of GEMMA Humanitarian Relief and Malaysian Student Association in Yemen
- Advisor of ALQAS Education & Charity Home
- Director of Maahad Tahfiz Az-Zahra
- Training and Motivational Consultant for Petronas, Municipal Council, Oriflame, Nutrimetics, Shinetsu, Texas
- Worked with American International Assurance (AIA), Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, AVON (M) Berhad and Flaireborne (M) Sdn. Bhd.
- Marketing Research and Account Planning Manager of Chuo Senko Advertising (Japan)
- Qualitative Study Manager at Frank Small & Associates (Australia)

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Attended the 7th Women's Conference in Turkey, 2022
- Delivered Speech at the 27th International Women's Conference at St Petersburg, Russia, 2022
- Received Golden Emblem from the Bangladesh University of Information Technology and Science (UITS), 2022
- THE 'GENDER EQUALITY (WOMEN EMPOWERMENT)' AWARD FROM A DHAKA-BASED UNIVERSITY OF ASIA PACIFIC.

- Conferred the Panglima Mahkota Wilayah award which carries the "Datuk" title, by the DYMM Yang di-Pertuan Agong in conjunction with Federal Territory Day, 2021
- Delivered speech at the 7th Annual Women in Leadership Summit, Perth, 2020
- Delivered speech at the 7th Annual Women in Leadership Summit, Brisbane, 2020
- Plenary speaker at the International Cleanup Conference in Adelaide, Australia, 2019
- Delivered speech at the Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit, Japan, 2019
- Delivered a lecture women's political participation at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, 2019
- Speaker at the ASEAN Sustainable Development (ASD) Summit in Bandar Sunway, Selangor, 2019
- Delivered speech in International Conference on National Building in Kuala Lumpur, 2019
- Delivered speech in Waste Management Sustainability Forum in Kuala Lumpur, 2019
- Attended the Woman Political Leaders Global Forum in Lithuania, 2018
- Represented Tun Dr Mahathir to receive the Nation-Building Lifetime Achievement Award (Public Sector) from Thailand's Nation-Building Institute (NBI), 2018
- Represented Malaysia for Women Political Leaders (WPL), Summit, Iceland, 2017
- Malaysian Panel for UNGA side-event "The Role of Global and Regional Actors to Advance Gender Equality and Political Empowerment of Women" 2017
- Attended the Women Political Leaders (WPL) Global Summit in Jordan, 2016
- Delivered a speech at the International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in the Arab World, organised by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, Berlin 2016.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AS A MINISTER OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES AND COMMODITIES

- **Provide solutions to labour problems (2021)**
 - Propose to use cabins as new accommodations for plantation employees and ensure that it complies with Act 446 of the Ministry of Human Resources.
- **Provide new strategies for industries under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (2021)**
 - Focus on corporate strategies to maximize revenue, while further empowering the plantation, agriculture and commodity sectors.
- **Vaccination Programme for the Agri Commodity Sector (2021)**
 - The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) has proposed to merge the Vaccination Programme for the Agri Commodity Sector (VACOMS) with the Community Vaccine Mobilisation (MOVAK) programme under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

- MOVAK has a logistics team that can reach interior areas and will use mobile units to join MPIC to reach out to remote rural plantations.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AS A MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Formation of the National Housing Corp (NHC) (2021)**
 - NHC was created to coordinate three housing agencies under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHLG), namely the 1Malaysia People's Housing Programme (PR1MA), the National Housing Department and Syarikat Perumahan Negara Bhd (SPNB) under a single entity.
 - The NHC's focus is to carry out research and strategic planning, look into acts and legislation, control, licensing and enforcement of housing regulations to safeguard the interests of all parties involved in the housing industry such as the buyers, developers, contractors and financiers.
 - The NHC also manages housing incentives, rental schemes, housing financing, maintenance and management of unsold units, in addition to coordinating and planning the construction, and preparing financial plans for affordable housing throughout the country.
- **Formulated the Urban Community Farming Policy (2021)**
 - A Malaysian federal government policy approved by the Cabinet aimed at regulating and propelling urban farming in Malaysia.
 - The policy outlines five thrusts as well as 17 strategies that are in line with procedures and regulations enforced by local government authorities.
 - This policy is an initiative targeted at empowering urban communities, while creating opportunities for communities and individuals to manage the short-term social economy by promoting organic vegetable farming.
- **Formulated the National Community Policy (2019)**
 - A Malaysian federal government policy approved by the Cabinet with 8 primary clusters designed to create a more inclusive, harmonious and sustainable community.
 - Served as the basis of all future actions and programs by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.
- **Formulated the National Cleanliness Policy (2019)**
 - A Malaysian federal government policy approved by the Cabinet with 5 primary clusters designed to shift the mindset and practices of the Malaysian

community and industries towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly waste management with an emphasis on the circular economy.

- **Formulated the National Affordable Housing Policy (2019)**

- A Malaysian federal government policy approved by the Cabinet with 5 primary components designed to ensure that housing remains affordable for ordinary Malaysians, particularly those who are low-income earners.