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Livability: Kuala Lumpur's challenge towards becoming world-class city

PETALING JAYA: Livability is one of the many challenges that Kuala Lumpur faces to achieve competitiveness with other cities worldwide.

Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP) general manager Khairiah Talha said this factor was very important for Malaysia's capital as it played a vital role to transform itself to a world-class sustainable and competitive city.

"Livability covers a lot of items, not just economic and social well-being but it also includes political stability," she said at a press conference in Kelana Jaya near here yesterday.

The press conference was held in Wisma Rehda, in conjunction with the 7th International Conference on World Class Sustainable Cities 2015 (WCSC 2015) on Sept 25.

Responding to a question on the challenges faced by Kuala Lumpur to become a greater city as what is planned under the 11th Malaysia Plan, Khairiah said the city had to

increase the element of livability or the idea to have a world-class sustainable and competitive city would not take root.

It was reported that the government had identified Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Johor Baharu as cities that would boost economic growth. However, a comprehensive master plan will be required for that to be realised.

According to Khairiah, the presence of the livability element will benefit all quarters such as for the public to access places and for goods and services to move fast in the city. Thus, livability relates closely to the other challenges, like the transportation system.

As for the transportation system, she pointed out that many competitive cities worldwide, like London and New York, had very good integrated super-efficient public transportation, which made it very attractive for local and global investors.