

# News Release

22 October 2025



## Building Brighter Futures for Malaysia's Orang Asli Communities

Over the past six years, this long-term initiative between Zurich Malaysia and EPIC Homes has helped eleven Orang Asli families move into safe and sustainable homes.

Kuala Lumpur, 22 October 2025 – Safe and secure housing remains one of the most pressing needs among Orang Asli communities in Malaysia. According to the [Department of Orang Asli Development \(JAKOA\)](#), [89.4 percent of Orang Asli households continue to live in poverty](#), facing significant barriers to securing durable, safe housing. Temporary structures often cannot withstand heavy rains, leaving families vulnerable to displacement and damage year after year. With the growing impact of climate change, these families face an even greater risk as extreme weather becomes more frequent and unpredictable.

Despite these challenges, solutions are on the horizon. In Simpang Pulai, Perak, Encik Azimar and Puan Wah Sepiah moved into their new home in September, while Encik Joi and Puan Ina settled in October, marking a new beginning after years of uncertainty. Their stories reflect the impact of a long-term commitment between Zurich Malaysia and EPIC Homes. Now in its sixth year, this collaboration continues to deliver lasting housing solutions for Orang Asli families.

“Before this, we were living in a bamboo house that we built ourselves. Whenever it rained heavily, water would leak in and disrupt our daily lives,” shared Encik Joi. “We’re happy to finally have a proper home and to have made many new friends over the past few days,” added Puan Ina with a smile, sharing that their youngest is especially excited to see the new house.

This collaboration is more than just building houses. Families are actively involved in planning and constructing their homes, fostering a sense of ownership and pride as they shape their future. Since 2019, this initiative has seen homes built in Rawang, Batang Kali, Bukit Beruntung, and Kuala Kubu Baru, with 11 completed to date, improving living conditions for vulnerable communities across Malaysia.

In an effort to sustain this commitment, Zurich Malaysia employees organise annual fundraising activities, supported by matching contributions from the Z Zurich Foundation. This year’s build was further made possible by zakat contributions. To encourage greater participation, Zurich Malaysia provides volunteer leave as an employee entitlement, empowering them to dedicate their time, skills, and energy to build stronger, more resilient communities.

“At Zurich Malaysia, we are committed to caring for every community, regardless of the challenges they face. To us, caring for what matters means showing up for our communities, our employees, and our partners,” said Erin Hwang, Head of Brand, Marketing and Communications of Zurich Malaysia. “Being on-site and working alongside our volunteers reminded us of the power of collective action and compassion. Taking part in building lasting homes for the Orang Asli is more than just a project for me, it is an investment in a brighter, more resilient future, helping communities gain the stability they need to thrive and build a better tomorrow.”

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This initiative brings together volunteers and partners who dedicate their time, skills, and resources to help families build stronger foundations. This year, a total of 62 employees and their family members from Zurich Malaysia, the Z Zurich Foundation, and partner GXBank volunteered together to help bring new homes and new beginnings to life.

"At GXBank, we believe inclusivity begins with tangible efforts that can uplift underserved communities," said Calvin Foo, Head of Partnerships at GXBank. "Seeing our teams come together with Zurich Malaysia to give their time and energy for this project is inspiring, and a humbling experience. This reminds us of our core as a Bank to put the needs of the underserved at the center of everything we do. We are appreciative to Zurich Malaysia who shares this value with us, and for the opportunity to be part of this meaningful project with them."

Looking ahead, Zurich Malaysia employees remain dedicated to this cause, with another build planned in Johor in the first quarter of next year, as they continue to support Orang Asli communities on their journey to a more sustainable future.

To learn more about Zurich Malaysia's partnership with EPIC Homes, please visit [www.zurich.com.my/care-for-what-matters/epic-homes](http://www.zurich.com.my/care-for-what-matters/epic-homes).

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