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ORANG ASLI-BUNGALOWS

BUKIT LANJAN ORANG ASLI RECEIVE KEYS TO BUNGALOWS

PETALING JAYA, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- Ten representatives from the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli community will receive keys to their bungalows from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here on Friday, it was announced today.

A total of 134 headmen who had signed a settlement agreement with property developer Saujana Triangle Sdn Bhd would receive keys to their bungalows on Saturday, said Wan Rashidi Wan Ibrahim, manager of Orang Asli development affairs in the company.

The move would not only make the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli as owning the most expensive properties among the Orang Asli in the country but also represented a smart partnership between the community and the private sector so that the community would not be left out of the mainstream of development.

Only 13 out of 147 headmen who qualified for the bungalows had declined to sign the agreement with Saujana Triangle because they were not satisfied with their compensation, he said.

These people also wanted to be compensated for "their" land but what they were compensated for was for their trees and crops at Bukit Lanjan which had been earmarked for housing development by Saujana Triangle.

Wan Rashidi said those who had rejected the compensation package consisted of six Orang Asli from outside the area but had built houses at Bukit Lanjan while seven others were original settlers.

He said 141 of the 147 bungalows had already been built.

Saujana Triangle is a subsidiary of MK Land Holdings Bhd. It received the rights to the Orang Asli reserve land at Bukit Lanjan measuring 641.1 acres from the Selangor state government in March 1995 for RM91.8 million.

Of that amount, RM60.9 million allocated by the Selangor state government had been set aside for building houses and infrastructure at the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli settlement and RM7.9 million was for an education fund for their children.

To date, RM39.2 million or 64 percent from the total allocation had been used for various purposes like buying 147 bungalows (RM15.97 million) from Saujana Triangle, compensation for trees and crops (RM8.568 million) and investments in Amanah Saham Bumiputra (RM6.03 million), said Wan Rashidi.

Orang Asli living at Bukit Lanjan who had been categorised under Group A will receive the highest amount of compensation amounting to RM1.085 million while the lowest will receive RM690,950.

Compensation is in the form of bungalows, terrace houses, apartments, Amanah Saham Bumiputera investments and cash.

Wan Rashidi said what had been received was in accordance with the decision of the Bukit Lanjan Village Development Committee and the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli customs body.

To prevent Orang Asli from being exploited, he said they would not be allowed to sell their houses to outsiders, he said. -- BERNAMA

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