

130 Orang Asli to get new apartments

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PETALING JAYA, Fri. — Come Sunday, the Temuan community will welcome another auspicious day when 130 of them will receive low medium-cost apartments in Desa Temuan, Bukit Lanjan, under the final package of a RM60.9 million Orang Asli resettlement programme.

This will also act as the finale to the much talked about 1995 resettlement package, when the Selangor Government appointed Saujana Triangle Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of MK Land Holdings Berhad and a member of the Emkay Group of companies, to resettle the Orang Asli living in the area to make way for development.

Saujana Triangle manager (Orang Asli development affairs) Wan Rashdi Wan Ibrahim said yesterday the whole idea was the "brainchild" of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Under the package, 147 Orang Asli

families received single-storey bungalows which were handed over to them in November 2001 by Dr Mahathir.

This was a month after they received double-storey terrace houses from the developer which also built a community centre in Sungai Buloh for them.

Each of these families also received Amanah Saham Bumiputera shares, valued at RM45,000, relocating allowances of RM300 each and those who stayed in their longhouse till their modern homes were completed received a monthly living allowance of RM500.

Besides that, RM7 million was allocated for the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli education fund via the Orang Asli Affairs Department.

The 130 apartments to be handed over on Sunday are for the children of the 147 families who were deemed eligible by the State Government in 1995 under the resettlement package.

Symbolic keys will be presented to them by MK Land Holdings executive

chairman Tan Sri Mustapha Kamal Abu Bakar.

Each of the apartments, located in Damansara Perdana, has a built-up area of 675 sq ft, three rooms, a toilet and a bathroom.

In the area there will also be facilities such as a *sepak takraw* court, a children's playground, a school, a multi-purpose hall and an Orang Asli museum.

Wan Rashdi said the whole project for the Temuan community covered 18 hectares and now that the resettlement programme was being completed, different concerns have cropped up.

He added that these were related to the welfare of the next generation of Orang Asli in the area.

He said there would be a need for role models to help the next generation in coping with the challenges of urban living and ensuring that the modern facilities did not affect their traditional practices and beliefs.