

**RM3.41mil to maintain residences of PM, DPM**  
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Over RM3 million was spent by the government last year for the upkeep of the homes of the prime minister, deputy prime minister and ministers in the Prime Minister's Department.

The total amount of RM3.41 million used could be used to build 100 low-cost houses, criticised Taiping DAP parliamentarian Nga Kor Ming.

In a written reply to Nga, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said that RM1.76 million was spent on Seri Perdana, the residence of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, while RM1.59 million was spent for Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's home, Sri Satria.

Another RM60,000 was used for the maintenance of houses belonging to five ministers under the Prime Minister's Department.

Nga had asked what was the total cost to maintain these residential buildings and the details on the recent renovations to Seri Perdana.

The prime minister talks about prudent expenditure and a moderate lifestyle but the cost to maintain the prime minister's and deputy prime minister's residences is enough to construct 100 units of the lowest-cost houses," said Nga (right).

"We have received information that the government plans to spend RM65 million to renovate Seri Perdana... the weird thing about this is, according to the information we got, both the official residences do not belong to the government but to Putrajaya Holding, a net loss to taxpayers," he said.

"We are spending million to renovate building that don't belong to the government... RM3.4 million a year to maintain two houses is not reasonable... especially when the government has been running into deficits for the past consecutive 15 years... and everyone knows that the national debt is at RM408 billion," added Nga.

According to the reply, RM4.4 million was spent on the renovation of Seri Perdana and it was focussed on the construction of Seri Perdana's main complex which is open to the public.

"It is in line with the prime minister's wish to turn the Seri Perdana Complex into a tourist attraction," said Mohamed Nazri.

"This will also be a symbol of progress of the prime minister and Malaysian government, therefore it is only fitting to ensure that the Seri Perdana Complex is in its best condition to safeguard the honour and image of the country," said the minister.

**Samy Vellu earns RM27,000 a month as a special envoy**

Meanwhile, former MIC president S Samy Vellu, who is now the country's special envoy for infrastructure for India and the South Asian region, takes a paycheque for RM27,227.20 in his new post.

The Prime Minister's Department, in a written reply to Lim Lip Eng (DAP-Segambut), said Samy Vellu's (left) salary and allowances per month is RM27, 227.20 and he is given additional perks as a special envoy.

Samy Vellu was appointed special envoy for infrastructure to India and South Asia in December last year after he quit as MIC president, a post he had held for 31 years.

Lim asked what was the rationale to set a special ambassador post and the work scope of Samy Vellu and all cost incurred including salary, allowances, office location, number of personnel and if his work overlapped with our ambassadors in other countries particularly in India.

In the reply, it was stated that Samy Vellu was hired to increase the involvement of Malaysian companies in infrastructural development in India and South Asian markets.

"This is because South Asian countries, especially India, are undergoing rapid economic growth, thus the need for quality infrastructure is vital to support the economic development".

It also said that Samy Vellu's position does not overlap with the other ambassadors in other countries as the position took into account the reality of economic development in the region.

It was stressed that Samy Vellu only focuses on infrastructural sector in the region.

"The special envoy is tasked with creating opportunities for those companies to take part in projects in accordance with local laws and regulations".

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