

THE STAR

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Ray of hope for the poor

Govt housing aid programme to help more than 80,000 families

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KUALA LUMPUR: For some families living in the interiors of the country and away from the mainstream of development, a simple three-room house is a luxury.

Nevertheless, those who never had such a home before will benefit from the Government's housing-aid programme (PBR) to give shelter to 30,114 Malaysians listed as hardcore poor and 53,025 who are poor.

In a statement here, the Performance Management and Implementation Unit (Pemandu) of the Prime Minister's Department said the Government has given this group a ray of hope to have such homes to call their own.

These houses, built on either



state or privately-owned land, come with running and treated water as well as 24-hour electricity supply.

Pemandu said to date the Rural and Regional Development Ministry has provided 2,496 houses (new as well as refurbished houses) under the programme to the hardcore poor.

It plans to deliver 16,626 houses more nationwide, which is part of its 50,000 target under a three-year rural basic infrastructure national key result area (NKRA).

A basic three-bedroom PBR house in peninsular Malaysia costs around RM33,000, while in Sabah and Sarawak it costs about RM43,000. -

In addition, the ministry has also targetted to build 7,000km of roads in the rural areas, give clean and treated water to 360,000 households and electricity to 140,000 houses over the next two years.

Sabah tops the list of having the most number of hardcore poor families (14,184) and poor families (13,669) in the country.

Malacca has the least number, with 25 listed as hardcore poor and

259 listed as poor.

Labuan does not have a single hard core poor family but has 69 people registered as poor.

Besides the programme for hardcore poor and poor families, the ministry has targetted to provide treated and running water to 70,181 houses in rural areas nationwide.

To date, it has delivered 10,524 houses: Sabah (5,789), Sarawak (1,096) and Peninsular Malaysia (3,639).

The ministry has also targetted to provide 25,312 households with 24-hour electricity supply this year.

So far, however, it has only delivered to 2,691 homes, of which 1,476 are in Sabah, 1,090 in Sarawak and 125 in the peninsula.