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PRIME NEWS

PM: Govt committed to balanced development

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FOR ALL: People will reap the fruits of nation's progress, says Najib

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak yesterday gave his assurance that the government was committed to implementing balanced development for rural and urban areas in its efforts to turn the country into a high-income nation.

The prime minister said the redevelopment of the Razak Mansion public housing scheme, which was renamed IRazak Mansion, showed the Barisan Nasional government's commitment to ensure that people in urban and rural areas would reap the benefits of the country's development initiatives.

"This project is a manifestation of the commitment by the government to implement balanced development, not only in rural areas, but also at housing estates in the cities.

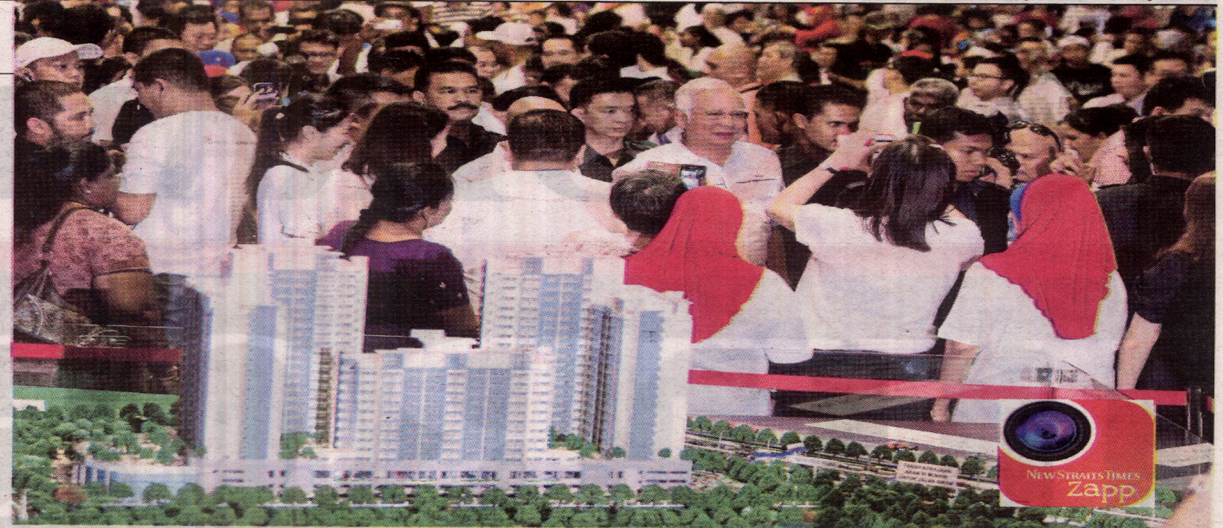
"This housing area is close to my

heart because the late Tun Abdul Razak (the second prime minister and Najib's father) had launched the Razak Mansion public housing scheme 47 years ago, on April 26, 1967.

"Time passes and 47 years have gone by, so, the time has come for this housing area, which is now quite dilapidated, to be redeveloped in line with the principle of urban renewal or urban redevelopment," he said in his speech at the groundbreaking and handing over of confirmation letters for housing units at IRazak Mansion in Sungai Besi here, yesterday.

The RM150 million redevelopment project, scheduled to start in the middle of this year and to be completed by 2017, is developed by Impianika Development Sdn Bhd.

Present at the ceremony were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib and Impianika



The crowd greeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the launch and groundbreaking of the IRazak Mansion project. Pic by Mohd Yusni Ariffin

Development Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Jeff B.K. Lee.

Najib said the project was necessary to complement Kuala Lumpur as a modern metropolis.

"If such initiatives are not carried out, it will lead to the existence of residential areas which are left behind or seen as urban squatters because of its deplorable state.

"It is just not appropriate if we want to turn Kuala Lumpur into a leading city in the world when there are still areas that do not complement its status as a modern metropolis."

The project, comprising three 18-storey blocks, will replace the present 658 units of the Razak Mansion, occupied by 557 owners and 101 units rented out by Kuala Lumpur City Hall.

The new units, Najib said, would be bigger and more comfortable, with fixtures such as two air-conditioning units and kitchen cabinets.

All the new units will have three bedrooms and two bathrooms with

an area of 800 sq feet. Existing units only have one or two bedrooms in a 399 sq feet or 504 sq feet area, respectively.

IRazak Mansion will also have better facilities such as 23 shoplots, a 20,000-sq-foot market, multipurpose hall, surau, kindergarten, residents' association office, police beat base and funeral room.

Najib also announced several incentives for house owners and tenants. Owners will be given a new unit while tenants will be offered homes at RM42,000 a unit.

He said owners would also be given RM3,000 each to help them meet the cost of moving. Half of the amount will be paid after the owners signed the agreement and the rest will be paid after the completion of the project.

"The stamp duty of RM4,000 will also be waived."

Najib said the government had also introduced several initiatives such as 1Malaysia People's Housing Project (PRIMA) and 1Malaysia Civil Servants Housing Project to help

the people to own comfortable houses.

"The government has also allocated RM1 billion to the Housing Facilitation Fund under the Public and Private Sector Cooperation Unit," he said, adding that RM100 million had also been provided for the 1Malaysia Maintenance Fund under the Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government Ministry to improve the comfort of public housing tenants.

Najib said among the projects being carried out were maintaining lifts, repainting houses, cleaning clogged drains, repairing garbage disposal areas and repairing playgrounds.

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