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PM launches KL homeless centre

ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS: Kuala Lumpur Homeless Transit Home in Jalan Pahang can house 250 people

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday launched the Kuala Lumpur Homeless Transit Home in Jalan Pahang here.

The centre is a corporate social responsibility project by Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd (MRCB) in collaboration with the Federal Territories Ministry and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

It can house 250 people and has toilets, a laundry room, a dining hall, a food distribution area, surau for men and women, a counselling room, a healthcare room and a locker room.

Najib, who arrived at the centre at 11.30am, was given a tour. He mingled with its residents.

Present were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, National Welfare Foundation chairman Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, MRCB group managing director Tan Sri Mohamad Salim Fateh Din and Titiwangsa member of parliament Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani.

After signing a plaque to symbolise its opening, Najib was briefed on the centre's operations by ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Adnan Md Ikshan.

The centre's construction began in February last year on a 1,319 sq m land. It was completed and received its certificate of completion and compliance on Nov 28.



The Kuala Lumpur Homeless Transit Home in Jalan Pahang was launched yesterday. (Inset) Volunteers helping residents at the centre. Pix by Aizuddin Saad

MRCB handed over the three-storey building to City Hall on Jan 29. On Feb 10, it began operating.

Secretary of the ministry's Policy Planning Division, Datuk Azizi Ahmad Termizi, said residents could stay at the home for up to two weeks and this could be extended to a month. During their stay, volunteers and workers would identify their problems.

"During the day, residents are encouraged to go out and find jobs. This centre will help them get back on their feet.

"We have peer-to-peer consultation by volunteers and workers to help residents with their problems."

As of Friday, 141 people had registered with the home.

From this figure, 125 people re-

side at the home while the others come daily to use the facilities and eat.

The ministry had provided a guideline for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the city here about preparation and distribution of food to the homeless to ensure cleanliness.

NGOs are required to register with DBKL and the Welfare De-

partment before conducting volunteerism activities at the centre.

"With its opening, we hope that NGOs' activities for the homeless can be regulated and coordinated.

"These include coming up with a system to prevent food wastage and ensuring the centre's cleanliness," the ministry said.

