

Newspaper

New Straits Times

Date

19 March 2016

Najib: Build more houses for Middle 40 group

NS-19/3/2016

HOMES: Projects must be flexible and use hire-purchase system, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday urged the private sector to be more involved in providing housing for the Middle 40 group.

He said the projects needed to be more flexible and unique, and should use the hire-purchase system suited to the financial position of the group.

"Young professionals, such as lawyers, architects (and) graduates, when they start working, they will need affordable houses that are up to their expectations.

"The housing projects should have flexibility and affordability for the group," he said when launching the Maju Kuala Lumpur housing project, a mixed-development project in Sungai Besi here with a gross development value of RM2.5 billion.

M40 refers to those with a monthly income of between RM3,860 and RM8,320.

Present were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Maju Holdings Sdn Bhd director Mohd Faiq Abu Sahid.

The prime minister said this group might feel marginalised and neglected if their needs were not met, as they had quite a good in-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak being briefed on the Maju Kuala Lumpur mixed-development project by Maju Holdings director Mohd Faiq Abu Sahid (left) in Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. With them are (from left) Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. Pic by Asyraf Hamzah

come and were self-reliant.

"We need to encourage the private sector to play its role within the confines of policies and guidelines set by the government."

Najib said the government aimed to build one million houses in five years for the B40 group, or those earning less than RM4,000 a month.

He said the housing projects included those built by the 1Malaysia People's Housing Corporation

(PRIMA) and the 1Malaysia Civil Servants Housing (PPA1M) initiative.

The Maju Kuala Lumpur project is being undertaken by ASM Development Sdn Bhd, a unit under Maju Holdings, and offers 4,200 units of three-room apartments in seven 29-storey towers.

The housing project is offered on the Maju Lease and Purchase Scheme, in which the buyer needs to pay a booking fee of RM1,800 for six months, and RM300 a month for 42

months. The price per unit is RM590,000. The project is expected to be completed in 2019.

It will have nine floors of podium space covering a gross area of two million sq ft, encompassing retail, commercial and recreational space.

Maju Kuala Lumpur will have access to main highways, namely the Kuala Lumpur-Seremban Highway in the west and the Besraya Highway in the east, apart from a multilevel interchange. **Bernama**