

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	19 JANUARY 2017

NAJIB SHARES IN NEW HOMEOWNER'S JOY

NST-19/1/2017

Hanafi, who rented a house for 12 years, now has a PR1MA place to call his own

M. HAMZAH JAMALUDIN
AND KALBANA PERIMBANAYAGAM
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday shared his experience of visiting a man who is now staying in a Malaysia People's Housing (PRIMA) home in Kuala Ketil, Kedah.

In his latest Facebook posting yesterday, Najib said Hanafi Abd Rahim had been living in a rented house in Kulim for 12 years.

He said Hanafi decided to apply for the PRIMA home after he realised that no deposit was needed to buy the double-storey terrace house.

"Now, he not only owns a comfortable home but it is also strategically located close to his children's school and other family members,"

said Najib who handed the house keys to Hanafi and other PRIMA home owners in Kuala Ketil and Sungai Petani on Tuesday.

Najib said it was the government's wish for more people to fulfil their dreams of owning homes.

"I share in the joy of Hanafi and his family and wish more will enjoy our continuous effort to provide housing for the people under PRIMA and other similar initiatives," he said.

Najib's announcement, which raises the eligibility criteria to apply for a PRIMA home from a maximum joint household income of RM10,000 to RM15,000, has gained overwhelming support.

In **Kota Baru**, many young and middle aged couples who spoke to the *New Straits Times* said it was a timely move which gave hope to many households which fell under

the new income bracket and could not afford their own homes.

Most of them said units at private housing projects were too expensive for the middle class. Those in this household income bracket are mostly civil servants. Now, this group feel more optimistic about owning a house or property of their own through the revised scheme.

Junior accountant Nurul Izza Yakub, 27, from Pasir Mas, said now she and her husband could apply for a PRIMA home because their combined household income was below RM15,000.

Najib also announced that the moratorium on renting and selling imposed on PRIMA house buyers was slashed from 10 to five years.

He announced the changes at the first PRIMA community meet-and-greet session in Sungai Petani on Tuesday.

He said the policy changes were in addition to the 2017 Budget tabling held in October last year on a special end-financing scheme.