

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	21 JANUARY 2017

TN50 TOWN HALL

PM: Govt's priority is to meet people's aspirations

Nst- 21/1/2017

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has not ceased its efforts to improve the livability of cities and the well-being of urbanites, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the 2050 National Transformation (TN50) town hall session on Thursday night.

"Yesterday, we had a forum on TN50. Among the questions posed to me was how urban areas could be transformed to be a more livable and comfortable place.

"In truth, the government has been working to make cities more comfortable. Of course, when we talk about how to make cities more livable, there will be several matters that we need to pay attention to," he said in his speech at the first "Jom Bantu Rakyat" programme, which kicked off yesterday in Desa Pandan, Titiwangsa here.

He said this included an efficient public transport system,

"The Mass Rapid Transit (for example) is an ongoing mega project. It is obvious."

The prime minister said it was the government's priority to listen to the people and meet their aspirations, and reminded leaders against ignoring their troubles.

"As a government (leader), I have always stressed on the importance of feeling the pulse of the people. In other words, we must be willing to listen to the people. Subsequently, we must be able to resolve their grouses.

"Do not upon listening to their troubles, we crumple the letters (of requests to seek assistance) and ignore their problems, which will remain unsolved."

Najib said it was incumbent upon the government to deliver solutions as espoused by the Barisan Nasional government's policy.

"We must be a government with the capabilities to deliver and ex-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak sharing a light moment with Desa Pandan Flat residents in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Second Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani (left). PIC BY MUHD ZAABA ZAKERIA

ecute anything that is planned according to the people's wishes.

"And, finally, we must ensure that anything that we want to do is fully and successfully executed. That is the principle held by the BN government. That is why I can say we are on the right track in terms of policies, goals and methods."

Present were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Second Finance Minister and Titiwangsa member of

parliament Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani.

At a press conference later, Najib said the first "Jom Bantu Rakyat" programme would focus on helping residents of the People's Housing Project flats and those in the B40 group in urban areas.

He said the project was facilitated by the Prime Minister's Department's Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) and involved government-linked companies (GLCs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"They need assistance in terms of renovation, repainting, fixing of doors and getting new furniture.

"This is an effort targeted at the lower-income urban group.

"The programme will be expanded to other areas with ICU as the facilitator.

"We also asked GLCs and NGOs for help. Like today, Celcom provided each of the family involved with smartphones."

>>Turn to Page 6