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# Housing a top agenda for govt

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*Najib: Proliferation of affordable housing projects is proof of govt's commitment to facilitate home ownership*

**HOUSING** is a top agenda of the government in championing the interests and wellbeing of the people, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak.

He said the proliferation of affordable housing projects is proof of the government's commitment to facilitate home ownership according to the people's means.

"We have many agencies managing affordable housing programmes, which have received an overwhelming response, like the 1Malaysia Civil Servants Housing Scheme (PPA1M), 1Malaysia People's Housing Scheme (PR1MA), the Affordable Homes Programme (RUMAWIP)," he said when handing over the keys for the 1Razak Mansion Housing Project yesterday.

The prime minister said apart from these, housing redevelopment is another initiative by the government to provide comfortable housing for the people, like the 1Razak Mansion in Sungai Besi which



**Najib (third from right) with residents of the 1Razak Mansion housing project after the key handing ceremony at Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur yesterday**

before this was known as the Razak Mansion public housing scheme.

A total of 658 new housing units were built under the redevelopment initiative, each with a floor space of 800 sq ft compared to 399 to 504 sq ft before, and each comes with three rooms, two bathrooms, besides the provision of various public facilities.

Najib said the Public-Private

Partnership (PPP) project is built near the old housing and was successfully completed nine months ahead of the expected three-year timeline.

"Through the PPP, we can redevelop these housing units. Of course, Razak Mansion before this gave an impression of a 'dingy', squatter house look and an 'eyesore', but the project now has been transformed and can be proud of,"

he said.

Najib said several residents he encountered also expressed their joy at getting a more comfortable and modern home.

He said each 1Razak Mansion unit has a strata title under the name of the original owner with a 99-year lease, compared to the old units with the remaining 40-year lease and having no strata titles.

Some 557 original owners

will get the new housing units free, while 101 housing tenants will be offered the units at a price of only RM42,000.

Najib also thanked the residents who agreed wholeheartedly to the proposed redevelopment of the housing site.

He said the transfer costs of RM3,000 for the original inhabitants would be funded by the housing developer, in addition to incurring the cost of maintenance and sinking fund for two years starting this year.

They are also granted a two-month timeframe to move into the new units, he said.

The prime minister described the housing project as being close to his heart because it was launched by his late father Tun Abdul Razak Hussein in 1967, who was the deputy prime minister then, and he (Najib) inaugurated the 1Razak Mansion groundbreaking ceremony in 2014.

Tun Abdul Razak succeeded Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj in 1970 to become Malaysia's second prime minister. Tun Abdul Razak died while in office in 1976.

Najib said the current market value of a 1Razak Mansion housing unit is RM350,000, compared to the previous price of between RM60,000 and RM80,000 per unit. — *Bernama*