

Four families get houses under pilot Ihsan project

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KEPALA BATAS: A gift of a new house for a poor family has made all the difference for Md Nasir Md Shariff who can now fully focus on his job as a kitchen helper, other than developing himself and his family in Kampung Tok Bedu, Tasek Gelugor, here.

Md Nasir, who was born and raised in the village, has been living in an old wooden house inherited from his grandparents.

The roof of the old house was not only leaking, but the wooden floor was also broken.

Md Nasir, 42, was among four people who received a new house under the Penang Rumah Kasih Ihsan project.

"The old house has been in a dilapidated state for a long time, and it was difficult to maintain it.

"My wife and three daughters,

aged five to 13, live in it and it was becoming unsafe.

"Now with proper shelter, we can put our worries aside and focus on improving ourselves.

"My children will grow up in a better condition and I hope they will benefit from it," said Md Nasir after receiving the key, together with three other recipients, from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim during a ceremony yesterday.

The new house was built just behind his old house in the village.

Costing RM75,000 and measuring 660 sq ft, the house has a living room, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The programme is an initiative of the Federal Government and coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office through its Penang Bumiputera Participation Department.

Recipients of the houses are



Worthy cause: Anwar (centre) together with Rumah Kasih Ihsan recipients in Tasek Gelugor, Penang.
- ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

those earning below RM580 monthly, single mothers or people with chronic illnesses.

As a pilot project, four houses under the programme were built in Kampung Tok Bedu, Padang Menora, Penaga and Machang Bubok.

The houses, are built on land

with temporary occupation licences (TOL) or privately owned land with permission.

The three other recipients who received their keys yesterday were Rosmida Yahya, 40; Hasimi Ayu Hashim, 47; and Siti Noora Hassan, 36.

Penang Deputy Chief Minister I

Datuk Ahmad Zakiyuddin Abdul Rahman was also present at the ceremony.