

## PRIORITISE AFFORDABLE HOMES

# URBAN PROJECTS MUST MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL, SAYS ANWAR

Development and housing policy should improve the lives of the people, says PM

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**D**EVELOPMENT projects, particularly in major urban centres, must reflect the government's policy of prioritising the needs of the broader population, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Speaking at the groundbreak-

ing for the Rumah Belia Madani and affordable housing development in Mukim Batu yesterday, he called on the Housing and Local Government Ministry to provide monthly updates on all major development initiatives, especially those involving affordable housing.

He stressed the need for greater efficiency and integration among mayors and local authorities, particularly in project approvals.

"From time to time, mayors and local councils must explain the approval processes and ensure they are swift and transparent."

Anwar said although the policy of prioritising the people's needs had been in place since 2022, its benefits must be clearly felt by those who need it most.

"Development is not about icon-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim looking at a scale model of apartments at the groundbreaking for Rumah Belia Madani and Mukim Batu affordable housing development in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa. NSTP PIC BY ASWAADI ALIAS

ic towers or luxury landmarks. It's about how much it improves the lives of the people, especially the underprivileged."

Present were Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Armed Forces chief General Datuk Mohd Nizam Jaffar and Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

Highlighting the importance of focusing on human development and improving the living conditions of the majority, he said more than 80 per cent of urban Malaysians relied on affordable

eateries and modest homes, yet these needs were often overlooked in urban planning.

"If most people eat at food stalls, why are they often neglected and rundown? Clean, functional facilities should be the norm."

Anwar said affordable housing must be prioritised, especially in high-cost urban areas like Kuala Lumpur.

"While the wealthy can afford million-ringgit properties, it is the government's responsibility to ensure liveable, dignified housing for everyone else.

"Those with the means can buy luxurious homes. That's their right. But affordable homes for

the majority must not be sidelined or delayed.

"There must be a clear and consistent policy among leaders, officials and civil servants to prioritise affordable housing.

"Without it, development approvals will serve only to enrich the wealthy while leaving the poor behind."

He urged all leaders and elected representatives to remain grounded and attentive to the struggles of ordinary citizens.

"Adopt a kampung. Return to your constituencies. Look at the conditions of the schools, the mosques, the homes. Understand the people's burdens."