

**Government Intervention Allows People To Own Quality Homes - Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today government intervention through the implementation of specific programmes had allowed more Malaysians to own quality homes.

He said government initiatives such as the 1Malaysia People's Housing Programme (PR1MA) allowed for the provision of affordable homes for the middle-income group especially those living in major cities who had to bear the high cost of living, particularly the cost of transportation.

"Owning a house is a dream and an aspiration for many, which the government cares about.

"Without intervention through these specific programmes, there will be more who won't be able to afford a quality home near their workplace," he said at the open drawing for 560 units of affordable house under PR1MA, here.

Present were his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, PR1MA chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Mutalib Alias, Putrajaya MP Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Mansor and Malaysian Ambassador to the United States Datuk Seri Dr Jamaludin Mohd Jarjis.

The prime minister also said that rural-to-urban migrations had brought about socioeconomic implications including the rise in the prices of land and house.

"This has forced many of them to live far from their workplace, causing difficulties including having to bear the high transportation cost," he said.

Najib said having a house near the workplace would help increase productivity and minimise the people's daily expenditure.

The prime minister also assured the people that the government would continue to provide more affordable homes, noting that the PR1MA units had been oversubscribed by 13 times, or 7,000 applications for the 560 units.

The government would also put in place facilities such as the 1Malaysia People's Shop and 1Malaysia Clinic to enhance the quality of life of PR1MA residents.

The first phase of PR1MA at Precinct 11 here was developed by Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd. It comprises 420 units measuring 815 sq ft each and priced at RM120,000, and 140 units measuring 1,006 sq ft each, worth RM150,000.

The prices offered are much lower than the market value of RM175,000 and RM220,000 respectively.

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