

PM: We'll build more affordable homes
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By R. Sittamparam and Azura Abas

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said government intervention through the implementation of housing programmes had ensured that more Malaysians could own quality homes.

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

Speaking at the open draw for 560 units of homes under PR1MA here yesterday, Najib said the government was aware that owning a house was the right and dream of every Malaysian.

"With the present property situation, low-income earners are only able to buy houses in the outskirts of towns and cities.

"However, with government intervention through programmes like PR1MA, these people can now purchase houses in towns and cities."

Present at the draw were his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, PR1MA chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Mutalib Alias, Putrajaya member of parliament Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Mansor and Malaysian ambassador to the United States, Datuk Seri Dr Jamaludin Mohd Jarjis.

The prime minister said rural-urban migrations had brought many socioeconomic implications including the rise in property prices.

"This has forced many of them to live far from their workplace, causing difficulties like having to bear high transport costs."

But having a house near the workplace would increase productivity and minimise expenditure, he said.

The government would also build the Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia and Klinik 1Malaysia to enhance the quality of life of PR1MA residents.

"Following the success of the first allocation today, we look forward to providing many more such homes in the coming months."

The first phase of PR1MA at Precinct 11 here would be developed by Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd.

It comprises 420 units at 815 sq feet each, priced at RM120,000, and 140 units at 1,006 sq

feet each, costing RM150,000. The prices were lower than the market value of RM175,000 and RM220,000, respectively.

He said as announced in the 2012 Budget, the government also intended to develop areas in Sungai Besi and Sungai Buloh.

"We will also identify other areas that are close to mass rapid transit, light rail transit and other public transport systems for ease of connectivity."

PR1MA said in a statement that 84 per cent of those who won their lots were first-time house buyers.

Later, at the launch of the 1Malaysia Deepavali Carnival in Klang last night, Najib said efforts were under way to ensure that the Indian community had a better future. He added that some 2,000 Indians who had issues with citizenship documents, birth certificates and identification cards would no longer have to worry about these problems.

To date, the woes of 1,642 Indians without citizenship documents or birth certificates or MyKad have been resolved.

Najib said the government would also set up a special unit with representatives from the Indian community to ensure that the RM100 million micro-credit loans for Indian entrepreneurs would reach them.

"We must also have nambikei (hope) for the future," said Najib.

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