

**Household Income Of Up To RM3,000 Eligible For RMR1M - Najib
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ALOR GAJAH, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the People-Friendly Home is now known as the 1Malaysia People-Friendly Home (RMR1M), and the government has agreed that a household income of up to a maximum of RM3,000 would be eligible to apply for the RMR1M compared with RM1,500 previously.

The Prime Minister said he had also set a target for the Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB) to build 10,000 units of the RMR1M this year.

The housing programme, he said, enabled the rakyat to own quality and comfortable homes and to lead a happy life.

"All 1Malaysia People-Friendly Homes (RMR1M) will be built using the 'Industrialised Building System' (IBS) technology with a larger built-up area without incurring additional cost to the applicants," he said when launching eight new models of the RMR1M in Durian Tunggal in conjunction with his one-day visit to Melaka Friday.

Najib said application forms for the RMR1M could be downloaded at all the offices of the elected representatives via online to facilitate applicants in obtaining the forms and finding out the status of their applications.

According to SPNB, since the housing programme was introduced in 2002, a total of 20,308 housing units had been built.

When met at the function, SPNB Chairman Datuk Idris Haron said the use of the IBS technology could produce durable, economic and innovative homes.

"It can speed up the duration of construction to 14 days compared with 70 days under the conventional method," he said.

The RMR1M construction is based on the concept of three bedrooms and two bathrooms with a built-up area of 1,000 sq ft and adhering to the specifications of the local authorities and the 'Malaysian Uniform Building By-laws.

Earlier, when opening Taman Seri Manggis and groundbreaking of surau and community hall in Machap Umboo, he said private developers should not focus on luxury housing development.

Private developers should also increase partnership with the government to develop affordable housing projects in the interest of the people.

"The private sector must give equal attention to luxury and affordable housing. For example, houses under Batu Berendam People's Housing Programme (PPR) are developed by the government at RM148,000 but sold at RM35,000.

"In Taman Seri Manggis, the private sector develops low-cost terrace houses sold at RM42,000," he said.

The project abandoned six years ago was completed by a new developer on Oct 15, 2010, involving 107 single-storey terraced houses priced at RM88,000 and 50 units of low cost terrace houses.

Najib also said the people should be more appreciative of government subsidies, besides Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M).

"Both subsidies and BR1M help the people, but subsidies have longer effects than BR1M.

"We spent RM22bil on subsidies this year, while BR1M involves RM2.6bil," he added.

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