

**Special Funding Scheme For PPR-MTEN Houses Commences March 1: Najib Bernama  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- A special funding scheme for the sale of houses under the National Economic Action Council's People Housing Programme (PPR-MTEN) as well as DBKL public housing will commence operation on March 1 to help those who want to buy such houses in the national capital, the prime minister said.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Cabinet at its meeting on Jan 18 had agreed to the scheme proposed by the Federal Territories and Urban Well-being Ministry.

Najib said the fund would be managed by Syarikat Perumahan Wilayah Persekutuan which was set up under the Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan, with funds from the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF).

"Through the special scheme, problems in obtaining loans can be overcome and this, in turn, will help the low- and medium-income families to own a house.

"I'm confident that the scheme will be able to assist prospective buyers and resolve numerous problems in obtaining loans all this while," he said when launching the 2012 Federal territories' Day at Dataran Merdeka here today.

Present were Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Federal Territories and Urban Well-being Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin.

Najib also spoke about the Federal Territories being a reflection of Malaysia's future, and a showcase of a holistic and responsible development planning as well as the best practice in the implementation of development programmes.

"Negative elements which are often associated with urbanisation process should be avoided. Creativity and innovation should be the hallmark in the development philosophy of these territories.

"Development should not be seen in a single-dimensional way but in an integrated manner taking into account humanity issues, the environment and aesthetic values," he said.

He added that through the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), the government strived to transform Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley through the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley initiative, with the objective of placing the national capital among the world's 20 most livable cities by 2020.

"Several mega projects are ongoing under the Greater KL/Klang Valley initiative including the My Rapid Transit, River of Life, Iconic Places, Pedestrian Walkway, Greener KL as well as the sewerage and solid waste management projects," he said.

The allocation for these projects in 2012 alone reaches RM1.49 billion, Najib said.

For the Greater KL/Klang Valley to be competitive and investor-friendly, he said, the

government had set up Invest KL to effectively promote investment in the area.

For Labuan, he said, the government had set its development target to be based on three key elements, namely as an oil and gas trading centre, an international business and financial centre, and as a premier tourism destination.

Notwithstanding these sectors, he said, other aspects or existing industries on the island such as education, marine-based halal food production, and retail businesses would continue to be given attention.

"The government will ensure that these sectors will continue to be strengthened," he said, pointing out that the government had also come up with a long-term action plan for the island to ensure the best infrastructure and facilities are put in place.

For Putrajaya, he said, apart from being the federal administrative centre, it would also remain a smart and green city, one that is well-managed and structured, with modern and efficient systems in place.

"I'm very proud with Putrajaya because it is not only popular as an administrative centre but also known throughout the world as a tourism destination.

"Through the Vitalising Putrajaya initiative under the Greater KL/Klang Valley, I'm confident Putrajaya will become an even more lively and vibrant city, attracting tourists and investors," he said, urging all parties to get actively involved in creating a vibrant federal territory.

He said the people want a Federal Territory not as a soulless concrete metropolis but an oasis of greenery and the best place to work, conduct business, invest, visit, for leisure and a place to build a family.

"It's not only a commercial, administrative or financial centre but also a premier arts and culture, and literature and culinary haven. This is not a dream; we can achieve all this with careful planning and strong will."

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