

**PM helps Buah Pala folk get homes**  
**New Straits Times**  
**29 June, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR: The 18 families of the now demolished Kampung Buah Pala finally have a place to call home, thanks to the Federal Government's efforts to re-house them in a new housing estate.

The families received the keys to their new homes on Tuesday, a testament that the government walked the talk when it fulfilled promises pledged to the people.

Syarikat Perumahan Negara Bhd (SPNB) chairman Datuk Idris Haron said the families, which lost their homes after their village was demolished to pave way for a posh condominium project, said they were happy and touched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's efforts to personally hand over the keys to their new homes.

Najib had met with residents of Kampung Buah Pala during a dialogue with Indian-based non-governmental organisations in Penang last April, which also saw him presenting them with replicas of the keys to their houses.

During the presentation, Najib had said the opposition had promised Kampung Buah Pala residents during the 2008 election that their village would be saved if the opposition captured Penang.

He said the opposition, however, failed to keep its promise and the village was demolished.

"Four years ago, opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim promised the residents that if the opposition took over Penang, their land would be untouched, only for them to find out later that the promise was all lip service," said Idris.

"The residents see the prime minister as their saviour. I saw some getting teary-eyed when they received their keys. For some of them, they never imagined that they would ever get their own house.

"I, too, am very happy to be a part of this."

Idris, who added the houses were a humanitarian gesture on behalf of the government, said SPNB was driven by Najib's 1Malaysia concept of "People First, Performance Now" as its personal working philosophy.

The 18 Kampung Buah Pala residents received their keys at a special session held on Tuesday at the Penang Indian Development Organisation's office.

The housing development in Taman Sejahtera Indah, Teluk Air Tawar, consists of two-storey terrace houses with three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

SPNB, which is owned by the Finance Ministry, is an agency set up to provide affordable housing for Malaysians.

Copyright © 2012 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/pm-helps-buah-pala-folk-get-homes-1.99704>

