

**Government May Defray Infrastructure Costs For Building Of Affordable Houses -
Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- The government is considering defraying infrastructure costs so that private developers can build more houses at below market price, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

The prime minister said he had asked the 1Malaysia Housing Programme Corporation (PR1MA) to have discussions with private developers to come up with a second model to build more affordable houses.

"We can enter into this kind of arrangement. We will be coming with a certain amount for infrastructure costs, provided the private developers build houses at lower than the market price," he said.

Najib said this when answering questions from deejays Chui Ling and Jentzen Lim during an hour-long interview on the "Morning Boss" breakfast show over Melody FM radio today.

He was asked his opinion on the issue of house prices, claimed to be high in the Klang Valley.

He said RM500 million would be spent to build 80,000 houses in major locations nationwide, and construction was expected to be completed in two years.

Najib said the government would open registration for the PR1MA houses as soon as the areas to build the affordable homes had been identified.

"But, we can be pretty fast if there are private developers willing to enter into some kind of arrangement with PR1MA; then those houses can come under the second model that I mentioned.

"We will be coming up with a government allocation to defray some of the infrastructure costs and they can sell the houses at lower prices to the public.

"I hope the housing developers are listening to this radio station this morning. Come and discuss with us whether you can participate in this second model so that more and more affordable houses can be built for the public," he said.

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