

11MP: Greater Access To Affordable Houses Under 11MP

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 21 (Bernama) -- Some 606,000 houses will be developed for low- and middle-income households under the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) is an effort to increase the people's access to quality and affordable houses, according to the plan document.

Apart from that, some 47,000 houses will be built or repaired for the poor, which will be carried out between 2016 and 2020.

According to the 11MP, carrying the theme 'Anchoring Growth on People' that was tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in the Dewan Rakyat today, a land bank would be established for the development of affordable housing, particularly in the urban areas.

In addition, the collaboration between the National Housing Department and state Islamic religious councils could be leveraged to unlock potential 'waqf' and 'baitulmal' land.

The five-year development document also highlights the establishment of an integrated databank accessible to all relevant stakeholders to ensure that housing supply matches demand according to locality, price and target groups.

Based on the strategic thrust of 'Improving Well-being for All', the government would also continue with existing programmes that have succeeded in meeting the housing needs for targeted groups in the urban and rural areas.

These include programmes under the PBR for the poor, and programmes for low and middle-income households such as the RMR1M, PPR, PRIMA and PPA1M, as well as programmes for second-generation Felda and Felcra settlers.

The thrust also focuses on building transit houses for youths and young married couples in urban areas, including those proposed under the 1Malaysia Youth City programme.

"These transit houses provide such families with a short-term residence while they build up their savings to purchase their first home.

"The private sector will be encouraged to develop public housing, which can be done through public-private partnership," said the report.

The document also states that the public housing rental rates would be reviewed to ensure that sufficient funds were available to cover the cost of management and regular standard maintenance of public housing.

All new affordable housing developments are also encouraged to adopt sustainable

practices, and provide livable and environment-friendly facilities and infrastructure for the rakyat, including people with disabilities and senior citizens.

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