

**16 Per Cent Of Affordable Housing Undertaken By BN Completed - PM Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said 160,000 out of the one million units of affordable housing pledged by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government in its 13th General Election (GE13) manifesto have been completed as at last Sept 30.

The Prime Minister said the government was committed to continue the housing project as it was close to the people's heart despite facing challenges due to economic uncertainty brought about by China's economic contraction and volatility in the United States' interest rates which affected the value of the ringgit.

"As a government, the BN has posted in its GE13 election manifesto in which we have pledged that within five years, we will build one million affordable housing nationwide.

"The main task is given to PR1MA (Perbadanan PR1MA Malaysia) whereby PR1MA is required to build 500,000 affordable houses throughout the country and up to Sept 30, 2015, around 16 per cent out of the 1 million affordable houses pledged have been completed," he said when speaking at the 2015 PR1MA House expo in Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here Friday.

Also present at the three-day expo which started today were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and PR1MA Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Mutalib Alias.

Najib said the provision of PR1MA housing project which cost 20 per cent lower than the market price was one way the government shared the country's wealth with the people.

"If the asset is in the form of a house, the market value is higher than what we buy, of course get only a PR1MA house, then we have obtain a bigger profit," he said.

He said the housing projects received overwhelming response and the houses were 'selling like hot banana fritters' while applications received exceeded houses offered.

As an example, he cited the PR1MA project in Alam Damai, Cheras of 2,000 units which received an application of five-fold while the 543 units in Jalan Jubilee, Bukit Bintang received an application of 25-fold.

The Prime Minister also asked the state governments to cooperate in the development of affordable housing projects to provide facilities for the people to own a home.

"For example, the state government has given leeway on PR1MA's development density policy to help reduce construction costs with an additional plot ratio, we will be able to

reduce costs to PR1MA, likewise Kedah, Malacca and Negeri Sembilan provide a one stop centre," he said.

He said government linked companies (GLC) such as Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) also cooperates with PR1MA in developing a 3.23-ha piece of land in Kajang involving 1,200 residential units sold to its employees and the local community.

The Prime Minister also handed over a letter of offer to 10 PR1MA house buyers in Kuala Ketil, Kedah and started the drawing of lots for the Alam Damai and Jalan Jubilee PR1MA projects at the function.

At the same event, PR1MA announced a strategic partnership with PERMATA to set up a PERMATA PR1MA childcare centre and community programme in selected PR1MA development.

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