



BETTER HOUSING: Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah looking out of the window of one of the modern kampung houses.

No more sleepless nights

■ **By Adzman Baharuddin**

noadzman@nst.com.my

SINTOK, Wed. — Mohd Ariff Mahmud will no longer have sleepless nights worrying about not having a roof over his head. The 55-year-old driving school operator now owns a nice kampung house equipped with modern facilities.

He and 351 other homeless people received their new houses from former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The houses, built under a programme initiated by Dr Mahathir during his tenure as Prime Minister, were developed and designed on the traditional village concept — promoting village values and the spirit of neighbourliness.

“My family and I and the rest of the housebuyers are very grateful to the Government,” Ariff said.

“It is very much a kampung house, but with better and more facilities for our children to enjoy a better living standard.”

Led by the Federal Government with the co-operation of the State Government and Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd, two new “modern” traditional villages, costing RM90 million, were completed last September.

The design of the two-storey units, with built-up areas of between 727 and 742 square feet each, incorporates the features of a traditional Kedah village house.

The units are priced between RM39,900 and RM43,450 each, depending on the size of the lots, which range from 10,000 to 17,000 square feet.

The villages are equipped with a police beat base, a multi-purpose hall, a library and information centre, a wet market, a kindergarten, and art and cultural facilities.

Ariff's new home is in Kampung Tradisi Lembah Keriang here, where the hand-over ceremony was held, while the other village with 161 houses was built in nearby Kampung Tradisi Paya Pahlawan.

Present at the ceremony were Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, and Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Mohd Hashim Hassan.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir reminded the people not to be too dependent on the Government.

He said while the Government would always help the people, especially the poor, to enjoy better living conditions, they should also work harder to improve their lot.