

AFFORDABLE HOMES

# 116 HOUSES FOR TIOMAN FOLK

92 per cent of RM47m project borne by the government, says PM

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday launched the 116-unit Tekek Makmur People's Housing Project (PPR) at Kampung Tekek in Pulau Tioman here.

Najib said the launch was historic as 92 per cent of the project's cost, which amounted to RM46.75 million, was borne by the government.

In his speech, Najib said the PPR in Pulau Tioman was a high-

priority project in the government's social agenda.

He also said qualified individuals were able to purchase a unit for only RM35,000, although each unit had cost RM403,000 to build.

"What is most special (about the project) is that it (housing unit) is being sold at RM35,000, which is only eight per cent of the actual cost," he said to cheers from the audience at the PPR here, yesterday.

Najib also announced that the government would allow 63 participants, who were unable to purchase a unit, to opt for the rent-to-own scheme.

The rent-to-own scheme is a method that allows people who are unable to pay conventional housing loans to own a home by renting it.

A person is allowed to rent the home until he could afford to purchase it.

Present were Menteri Besar

Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar, Rompin member of parliament Datuk Hasan Ariffin, and Tioman assemblyman Datuk Mohd Johari Hussain.

Also present were East Coast Economic Region Development Council chief executive officer Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John and its Pahang general manager, Datuk Mohd Mazlan Sharudin.

Excitement was written on the face of Zalifah Berahim, 31, who, along with her husband Kamizan Mat Daim, 34, and their 14-year-old daughter, moved into their new PPR unit two months ago.

"Hari Raya was very special for us as a family because we were able to celebrate it in our new home," said Zalifah when met here yesterday.

The Kampung Tekek native, who is self-employed, said the home was comfortable as it had



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak handing over a mock key to a recipient of the Tekek Makmur People's Housing Project in Pulau Tioman yesterday. With him are Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob (second from left) and Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar (left). PIC BY FARIZUL HAFIZ AWANG

three bedrooms and was equipped with two bathrooms.

Another resident, housewife Nazariah Hamzah, 32, expressed gratitude for being able to purchase her own home.

She said her husband, Wan Noraziz Wan Endut, and their three children, were glad to sleep in their own rooms, which was a far cry from their rented house in Kampung Tekek.

"We are fortunate to have a home that is situated near a mosque, a school and convenience stores," she said.

The 116 single-storey three-room housing units were built on 3,288 hectares of land.

PROJECT REVIVAL

## Bigger airstrip to boost tourist arrivals

**ROMPIN:** The government will revive a 2009 proposal to build a bigger airstrip capable of handling a Boeing 737 commercial aircraft at Kampung Genting in Pulau Tioman here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said this was being done to boost the number of tourist arrivals to the island, which currently stood at 250,000 annually.

Foreign media agency CNN considers Pulau Tioman to be among the most beautiful in the world.

"This (airstrip proposal) can radically alter the (socio-economic) landscape of Pulau Tioman," he said to loud cheers at a Hari Raya celebration at Kampung Tekek in Pulau Tioman here yesterday.

Najib said the proposal was important as Pulau Tioman had not reached its full potential as a tourist destination.

He, however, said the project might take some time to materialise as the government was looking into the matter.

Najib also announced that the government would allocate RM10 million to repair and build new jetties at five villages. The villages are, Kampung Tekek, Kampung Paya, Kampung Mukut, Kampung Salang and Kampung Juara.

He also announced that the Rural and Regional Development Ministry had allocated RM34 million to upgrade the water supply system at Kampung Tekek and Kampung Air Batang.

## New boardwalk eases villagers' burden

**ROMPIN:** Residents of Kampung Air Batang and Kampung Tekek in Pulau Tioman can now travel to both villages freely, thanks to a new 310m boardwalk launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday.

The RM1.6 million East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) project, implemented by the Tioman Development Authority, began construction on Sept 22, 2015 and was completed on Feb 6.

Najib, accompanied by Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak walking on the newly-completed boardwalk in Kampung Tekek, Pulau Tioman, yesterday. PIC BY FARIZUL HAFIZ AWANG

Noh Omar, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Rompin member of parliament Datuk Seri Hasan Ariffin and Tioman assemblyman Datuk Mohd Johari Hussain, spent over half an hour touring the boardwalk.

Present were ECERDC chief executive officer Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John, and its Pa-

hang general manager, Datuk Mohd Mazlan Sharudin.

Previously, residents of both villages and tourists were forced to use a hilly trek linking the settlements.

Kampung Tekek chief Zulkaini A. Hamid said the boardwalk would allow students from Kampung Air Batang to go to their school in

Kampung Tekek.

"This walkway is very beneficial to us.

"Villagers can use the bridge to buy basic daily necessities and children can go to school easily," he said.

He added that the boardwalk could boost tourism in Kampung Tekek, which was also the island's administrative centre.