

NewSundayTimes . MARCH 25, 2018 •

2 | NEWS / Story of the day

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SELANGOR, PENANG

NAJIB: 2 STATES HAVE STRANGE HOUSING RULES

BN will review the conditions imposed by Selangor govt if it recaptures the state in election

FARHANA SYED NOKMAN AND FAHMY AZRIL ROSLI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE opposition-led Selangor and Penang governments have been imposing strange requirements on housebuyers and developers, resulting in additional costs that need to be borne by both parties, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said Barisan Nasional would look into the additional conditions imposed by Selangor government, which resulted in an increase in the construction

cost of affordable homes in the state.

He said this would be done if the coalition wrested back the state from the opposition in the 14th General Election (GE14).

Najib said the imposition of the additional conditions had caused the cost of building the Perbadanan PRIMA Malaysia (PRIMA) houses in Selangor to be higher than in other states.

"We don't intend to add conditions that will make the cost higher. God-willing, if we are given the mandate to rule in Selangor (after GE14), we will review the additional terms imposed by the state government.

"It is not only for PRIMA, but also for housing developers who have voiced their dissatisfaction about the additional conditions imposed by the Selangor government.

"To them (housing developers), the additional conditions only increase building costs, and in the end, it is the people who



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak with PRIMA housebuyers after the launch of the 'Ekspo Jualan Perumahan: Ke Arah Sejuta Impian' national edition at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY SAIRIEN NAFIS

have to bear the burden."

He said this after the launch of the nine-day "Ekspo Jualan Perumahan: Ke Arah Sejuta Impian" national edition at the Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

Najib said Penang, which is under the opposition, also imposed weird conditions, like requiring house buyers to register as voters in Penang, to buy a house in the state.

He said although there were constraints, the Federal Government, through PRIMA, would build houses at lower than market prices for middle-income earners to own houses.

Najib said various housing projects in Penang were being implemented, including in Per-

matang Pauh, involving 1,017 units, Batu Ferringhi (1,248 units) and Bukit Gelugor (2,387 units).

"On the mainland, the houses are sold for RM250,000 and below (each), while on the island, the price is RM300,000 and below."

He said the government had achieved its commitment to build one million affordable housing units.

"There are 139,338 or 12.5 per cent houses completed, while 311,281 or 28 per cent of houses are at various stages of development. The remaining numbers are in planning and pre-approval stages."

He said PRIMA was on the right track in fulfilling its commitment to build 500,000 houses for the people.

He said among the projects that had received an overwhelming response included PRIMA @ Jalan Jubilee in Bukit Bintang, with 42 per cent of the 542 units booked within three days.

"So, if we provide houses in places where there is demand at a suitable cost, people will buy."

Commenting on the progress of the 1Malaysia Civil Servant Housing Scheme (PPAIM), Najib said 141,774 units had been approved for development.

"Soon, we will achieve our target of building 200,000 units, including another 10,000 units for the police."

Among the agencies involved in the exhibition were PRIMA, PPAIM and the Rural and Regional Development Ministry.