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Journalist	THARANYA ARUMUGAM AND KOI KYE LEE
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# States, GLCs asked to chip in

**H**OUSING developers, state governments and government-linked companies (GLCs) have been urged to assist the Federal Government's aim to build one million affordable homes by 2018.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said despite economic challenges, the government was able to continue with programmes that benefit the people, such as building affordable homes.

He revealed that 160,000 units of the one million affordable homes had been built as of September.

"The government is committed to continue its plan to develop more affordable housing projects despite the economic challenges, such as the drop in the ringgit's value.

"This is because it (affordable housing) is something that is close to the people. This can be seen in the number of people who had applied for the 1Malaysia People's Housing Project (PRIMA), which has received an overwhelming response.

"Of the one million houses, PRIMA has been tasked with building 500,000 affordable homes nationwide. As of September, about 16 per cent of the one million homes promised by Barisan Nasional in the 13th General Election has been completed."

Najib said this at the opening of the three-day 2015 PRIMA Housing Expo at the Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

Present 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 PRIMA chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Mutalib Alias.

Najib said the affordable homes were built in the hopes of providing Malaysians with quality houses and a comfortable life. The prices of the affordable houses should be at least 20 per cent lower than the current market price since it was a way to transfer the wealth of the nation to the people to empower them.

"If people own houses as their asset, the market value will be higher than the purchase price, hence, owners will gain profit."

He called on the state governments and GLCs to help the Federal Government develop affordable housing, such as those in Sarawak, Kedah, Malacca and Negeri Sembilan, which had helped reduce the cost of PRIMA homes.

"GLCs like Tenaga Nasional Bhd have also worked with the government to develop 1,200 housing units in Kajang."

Najib presented offer letters to 10 PRIMA housebuyers from Kuala Ketil, Kedah. He also officiated at the balloting for two PRIMA projects in Alam Damai, Cheras, and Jalan Jubilee, Bukit Bintang.

Earlier, in his Facebook posting, Najib said affordable homes offered under PRIMA had seen a positive and encouraging response.

"I was told that the demand for these affordable homes has been so

encouraging that it exceeds 25 times the total houses offered."

Najib said the government would continue to intensify housing initiatives so that families or individuals in the middle-income group could afford to buy their dream homes.

PRIMA affordable homes are offered to Malaysians with a monthly household income between RM2,500 and RM10,000.

These homes are sold for between RM100,000 and RM400,000.

In another Facebook posting, Najib said balloting had been conducted for 2,074 units in Alam Damai and 543 units in Jalan Jubilee.

He advised those eligible to apply for the homes.

"If you are eligible but have yet to apply, do so immediately. If you had applied but was unsuccessful, please try again.

"God willing, the government will build more affordable homes to meet demand from the people."

Meanwhile, PRIMA announced that it had entered into a strategic partnership with Permata under the Prime Minister's Department to develop the PRIMA homes community. Mutalib said the partnership would see the formation of Permata PRIMA quality childcare and community programmes in selected PRIMA developments.

"These programmes will be divided into two groups — Permata PRIMA Childcare Centre for children aged between 1 and 4 and Permata Perkasa@Remaja Community Centre for youths aged between 15 and 25."