



**PEMANDU**  
UNIT PENGURUSAN PRESTASI DAN PELAKSANAAN

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **New Hope for the Hardcore Poor**

**Kuala Lumpur:** To most Malaysians, a house with the basic amenities is considered good enough to shelter ourselves and our loved ones. Anything beyond that is a luxury. But for some of us still living in the boondocks, away in the interiors of the country and away from the mainstream of development, a three-bedroom spartan house is almost a haven.

To the hardcore poor, such houses provided by the government under the Housing Aid Programme (*Program Bantuan Rumah* or PBR) is heaven-sent. This community of people are part of the 30,114 Malaysians listed as hardcore poor while another 53,025 have been identified as poor.

Since the introduction of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP), initiatives under the rural basic infrastructure (RBI) National Key Results Areas (NKRA) have given this group of people a semblance of hope. They now have a roof over their heads, a basic house to call home in areas which were not covered, or perhaps overlooked in previous development programmes.

These houses, built either on state or privately-owned land, come with running and treated water as well as 24-hour electricity supply. To date, the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development has provided a total of 2,496 houses (new houses as well as refurbished ones) under PBR to the hardcore poor. It is planning to deliver a total of 16,626 houses in Peninsular Malaysia as well as Sabah and Sarawak. This initiative is part of the target of 50,000 houses set under the three-year RBI NKRA.

The Ministry of Rural and Regional Development will provide 109 houses in Sabah, 1,437 in Sarawak and 950 in the peninsula under the RBI NKRA. A basic three-bedroom PBR house in the peninsula will cost RM33,000, while those in Sabah and Sarawak are built at RM43,000. In addition to low-cost housing, the Ministry will also be ensuring that roads are built under the *Program Jalan Luar Bandar* (JALB), providing treated and running water under the *Program Bekalan Air Luar Bandar* (BALB) and supplying electricity under the *Program Bekalan Elektrik Luar Bandar* or (BELB).

Under the RBI NKRA, the Ministry is targetting to build and upgrade 7,000 km of roads in the rural areas, giving clean and treated water supply access to 360,000 households and electricity to 140,000 houses from now until 2012.

“For the hardcore poor family, the implementation of the RBI programme under the RBI NKRA of the GTP brings about new hope,” said Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal, Minister of Rural and Regional Development. “The aim of the RBI NKRA is ensure that the hardcore poor, rural communities are not left out in the course of the nation’s development. In addition to improving these rural basic infrastructure, we will also assist them to raise their standard of living.”

For Nuraine Nasir, 37, of Kampung Londah, Gemas in Negri Sembilan, her new home symbolises more than an upgrade of her financial status. The far more spacious and comfortable living quarters, when compared with her hut in Rokan, some 30 km away, also provides her with a better living environment for her family, in other words, a better standard of living.

“I’m very thankful to have this house,” said the single mother of three, who supplements her income selling iced drinks around the newly opened housing area which is approximately 20 km from Gemas. She was among the first group of hardcore poor residents of the houses who wasted no time to collect the keys when the District Office informed her that the application for a PBR house has been approved and that the house is ready for occupation.

Nuraine’s neighbour Mohd Isa Ibrahim, 47, looks forward to a better tomorrow now that his primary concern to shelter his five children comfortably has been addressed. “For poor people like us, this new house is like heaven. We are thankful the government is helping us. Otherwise, how could we afford a house like this?” Isa said.

Sabah tops the list as having the most number of hardcore poor in the country with 14,184 people and another 13,669 being poor. Its neighbour Sarawak is second with 9,993 hardcore poor and 13,993 poor. In the peninsula, Kelantan has the most number of hardcore poor with 2,357 and 6,285 poor folks. Melaka has the smallest number of hardcore poor with 25 people and 259 poor while Labuan does not have a single hardcore poor, but registered 69 people as being poor.

Meanwhile, a total of 477.8 km of roads, comprising 171 km in Sabah, 17.1 km in Sarawak and 289.7 km in the peninsula have been built. Under the RBI NKRA, the Ministry’s target is to build 751.9km rural road in 2010. The rural roads are expected to connect 91.4 percent of the folks living within the radius of 5 km from paved roads under the JALB.

To date, the Ministry has also delivered a total of 10,524 houses with treated and running water from the overall target of 70,181 houses in the peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak for the year 2010. From that number, a total of 5,789 households in Sabah are now enjoying clean water supply under the BALB with another 1,096 in Sarawak and a total of 3,639 in the peninsula.

The Ministry has also provided 2,691 houses with 24-hour electricity from its target of 25,312 houses in 2010. Of the 2,691 houses, 1,476 are in Sabah , 1,090 in Sarawak and 125 in the peninsula.

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