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Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abd Samad (fifth, left), TNB chief corporate officer Datuk Wira Roslan Ab Rahman (fourth, left) and Lembah Pantai member of parliament Fahmi Fadzil (fourth, right) with recipients of Baiti Jannati Wilayah Persekutuan 2019.

Homes for the urban poor

SARAH RAHIM
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

A LONGTIME wish of 62 families to have a place to call their own has now been fulfilled under Tenaga Nasional Bhd's Baiti Jannati project.

Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abd Samad said this strategic partnership between the government and the corporate sector, has brought tremendous benefit to residents and effectively handled the issue of urban poor.

He said the Baiti Jannati project provided a comfortable place of living which is the basis to the families' harmony.

"It is our aim to provide a comfortable place to live for the disabled, the underprivileged, the single mothers and the asnaf (those deserving of title). We hope more Government-Linked Companies would come forward to follow TNB's lead," he said after handing over the houses for recipients in the Federal Territory, under the Projek Baiti Jannati Wilayah Persekutuan 2019 at the Kompleks Sukan Pantai Ecopark Lembah Pantai.

Each house was worth about RM50,000 each.

TNB chief corporate officer Datuk Wira Roslan Ab Rahman said this year, 60 recipients in the city were given ownership of low-cost houses and two of

them will be helped by TNB to build houses on their own land.

He said in 2017, TNB contributed about RM6 million of business tithes (*zakat perniagaan*) to Pusat Pungutan Zakat Federal Territory Islamic Religious Council (MAIWP) and RM3.4 million of it was used for the Projek Baiti Jannati Wilayah Persekutuan 2019.

Roslan said owners were selected based on suggestions from MAIWP as they are registered as Baitulmal aid

recipients.

Out of the 62 recipients, 23 of them were from Lembah Pantai, as TNB's headquarters is in Bangsar.

Since it was introduced in 2007, a total of 703 houses were repaired, built or purchased throughout Peninsular Malaysia at the cost of more than RM30 million.

Also present during the event was Lembah Pantai member of parliament Fahmi Fadzil.



Sixty-two families were selected for Tenaga Nasional Bhd's Baiti Jannati project.

A place to call home

"WE could not afford to rent a house and were among the squatters at Kampung Cempedak in Sentul Pasar," she said.

One of her neighbours managed to secure a place at the Perumahan Awam Seri Kelantan when her eldest child was 11.

"They invited us to stay in with them while we tried our luck in getting one of the houses," she said.

Norazlina's husband, Mohd Khair Sharun, 59, works as a security officer and had to support her after she was

diagnosed with a kidney disease and heart problem.

They have four children aged between 34 and 19.

Due to her illness, she could not stand for long periods of time, and would feel breathless. She is now wheelchair-bound.

For Norazlina, owning a house of her own in the middle of the city was like an impossible dream for them and she expressed her gratitude for the assistance.



“It was difficult to own a house due to the exorbitant prices. We just could not afford it. At least now, we do not have to depend on others and have our own home.”

NORAZLINA ABU BAKAR, 51

Remembered the hard days when her family had to live in a cramped house with 15 people.

"MY father started to have nerve problems when he was in his 40s. Unfortunately this year, my beloved mother also passed away," she said.

She said they used to live at Rumah Panjang KTM when her father worked as a driver with Telekom Malaysia.

They moved to PPR Kerinchi when she was in Form One.

"It was difficult for my father to work and his grandchildren needed to stay with him to help," she said.

Azira said previously her father had to pay a rental of RM124 per month.

"Now he has his own home where he feels more comfortable and he does not need to worry about paying rent," she said.



“My father can live comfortably in his own home that gives him more space and privacy. I have peace of mind knowing that he can focus on his health and not have to worry about finding a place to live.”

AZIRA MANSURNDIN, 25

Came to represent her father, Mansurndin Ahmad, 70, who is semi-paralysed and unable to walk.

"MY grandfather had a hearing impairment and my grandmother suffered from stroke but she has now recovered after going for treatment," she said.

Fatin said they used to live in a squatter house in Kampung Pasir before the house was demolished.

She said Baitulmal had helped them with RM300 aid per month and RM124

for the rental of a house at PPR Seri Cempaka.

Fatin was grateful for the guidance of her grandparents and hoped that this house would bring more happiness to her family.

"The house was already renovated and given a fresh coat of paint. Fans and lights are already installed too," she said.



“We were worried about owning a house for them and I was looking for a home to buy. Luckily, my grandfather was chosen to receive this house so it was no longer an issue to our family.”

NUR FATIN ATIQAH ZAMRI, 25

Fond memories of being raised by her grandparents, Saeyan Abd Lateh, 68, and his wife Noriah Salleh. They had raised Fatin and her siblings after their parents divorced.