

Thursday, July 14, 2011

'This moment is a gift from HM' Wait is over for 650 housing recipients



His Majesty (R) with Sayyidina Ali Secondary School students during the house keys handing ceremony for new houses under the Panaga National Housing, Belait District. Picture: BT/Rudolf Portillo

Amir Noor and Sally Piri
BELAIT

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

"THIS moment is like a gift from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam."

Muhd Azizul Hakim Abdullah Sulau, 54, was referring to the ceremonial handing of keys to the 650 recipients of new homes in Belait. He had waited for 26 years.

There were sighs of relief among the recipients as the ceremony yesterday that involved His Majesty giving them the keys ended their more than a decade-long wait for new homes. The ceremony was held at the Convention Centre Building hall, Kuala Belait.

Muhd Azizul Hakim was one of the first to receive a plaque representing the keys from His Majesty.

He said the ceremony demonstrated the monarch's concern for his people.

"Therefore, I consider this as a very valuable gift myself and other citizens as well because it is everyone's desire to have their own home one day such as today."

Muhd Azizul Hakim was amongst the 315 recipients of the semi-detached houses.

He said it was a perfect time to finally get his home as he was expected to retire from his teaching post at St James School soon.

Another semi-detached home recipient was Pg Hj Ishak Pg Hj Duraman who sported a green songkok. He represented his family in receiving the key to their new dwelling at the ceremony yesterday.

With his wife and children of three, Pg Hj Ishak expressed his gratitude towards His Majesty in providing shelter for his loved ones. It was such a relief after waiting since 1995, he said.

Pg Hj Ishak who works two week onshore and offshore alternately has been living with his family in a staff house.

A terrace house recipient, Md Raihan Abdullah @ Mikof Singong also extended his thanks to His Majesty in personally handing over the keys to himself and the other recipients.

The 57-year-old, a retiree, has a family of six who have all come of age.

Wearing an orange headscarf that matched her light brown-and-orange pattern baju kurung, Saleha Jawi, 37, could not hide her excitement to receive a symbolic plaque key of a brand new terrace house for her family. The mother of five was at the ceremony on behalf of her husband.

The mother of five shared that her husband Halelo Awang, 40, applied for the housing scheme in 1995.

"And this year we have received a confirmation that we will move in to a new home. We are very delighted as we have been waiting for a long time," said Saleha, who has been living with her parents even after her getting married.

"My family and I express our appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for granting us a new home," she added. Under this housing scheme, she will pay \$100 a month.

A recipient of semi-detached house, Nur Adliana Abdullah Ngila, 48, said she had to wait for 16 years before she could enjoy her first new home. She said that she applied for the housing scheme in 1995 and was invited for an interview in 1996.

"I am very thankful as my family and I have been waiting for this moment for so long," said Nur Adliana, a mother of three. She said under this housing scheme, she pays \$247 monthly for 21 years.

Another recipient of semi-detached house was 39-year-old Norain Bakar. This new house will accommodate her family of nine, including seven children aged 15 to 23 years old.

The wife of a fisherman, Norain expressed her gratitude to His Majesty. "Alhamdulillah, we are very thankful," said the owner of No 13, Simpang 24, Jalan Parak Kg Panaga. "This year InsyaAllah we will celebrate Hari Raya Aidil Fitri at our new house." The Brunei Times

HM meets new homeowners of housing scheme



His Majesty (C) the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam witnessing a conversion ceremony for Afzanizam Azman Abdullah Daraman (3rd L), Nur Amni Abdullah Daraman(2nd L) and Nur Asyiqin Abdullah Daraman (L), during the monarch's visit to the new houses under the Panaga National Housing in Belait District. Picture: BT/Rudolf Portillo



The semi-detached houses under the Panaga National Housing Scheme in Belait District. Picture: BT/Saifulizam

Sally Piri and Amir Noor
BELAIT

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

HIS Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam spent time yesterday visiting new homes of the recipients of Panaga National Housing Scheme and witnessed a conversion ceremony.

Soon after the ceremony to hand over house key plagues to recipients of houses under the Panaga National Housing Scheme yesterday, His Majesty continued the morning tight schedule to visit the Village Head of Kg Pandan C, Hj Affandy Damit at Pandan National Housing Scheme in Kuala Belait. There the monarch was briefed on the well-being of residents in the area.

Among the new home owners of who had the opportunities to meet His Majesty was 38-year-old Hamimah Hj Abdullah.

According to Hamimah, she applied for the housing scheme back in early 1990s along with her sister, when she was still a student at a secondary school. Now she and her sister, Junimah Hj Abdullah, 36, are living next door to each other in a semi-detached house. "We learned from the experience of our father, who was granted the house in the 1980s after waiting for about 15 years," said Junimah.

Her father was one of the recipients of Kg Pandan National Housing Scheme, the first housing scheme in Kuala Belait.

"We are very pleased with the house, we like the model and we can live close one to another," she said. His Majesty also visited one of the new owners of a terrace house, 39-year-old Daraman Anak Igol.

Daraman, a father of 10 said that he will be paying \$221 per month for 17 years for the new three-bedroom house.

During the visit, His Majesty witnessed a conversion ceremony for three of Daraman's children, namely Nur Amni Abdullah Daraman, 14; Afzanizam Azman Abdullah Daraman, 16 and Nur Asyqin Abdullah Daraman, 12. Another Iban family who embraced Islam during His Majesty's visit were Nurul Amalina Abdullah Serai, 34, and her only son Khairul Anwar Abdullah, 13. "It has always been my intention to embrace Islam, witnessed by His Majesty," said Nurul.

His Majesty also visited another recipient of a terrace house, Hamidon Ibrahim. He said that he applied for the housing scheme in 1993 which made him all the more grateful in receiving his new home after having to reside in the home of his parents or his parents-in-law. The Brunei Times

650 recipients under National Housing Scheme receive keys



His Majesty (L) the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, handing over the key plaque to one of the recipients of Panaga National Housing Scheme held at the Convention Centre Building Hall in Kuala Belait yesterday. Picture: BT/Saifulizam



His Majesty (R), presenting the plaque keys to recipients of the Panaga Housing Scheme. Picture: BT/Saifulizam



His Majesty (R), signing the key plaques of recipients during the monarch's visit to the new houses at the Panaga National Housing Scheme. Some 650 residents of Belait District became the official owners of the houses under the housing scheme when they were presented with the key plaques by His Majesty. The recipients have been waiting for this moment for more than a decade. Picture: BT/Saifulizam



His Majesty (C) the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, meeting with residents at the Panaga National Housing Scheme, Belait District. Picture: BT/Saifulizam



His Majesty (L) the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, handing over the key plaque to one of the recipients of Panaga National Housing Scheme held at the Convention Centre Building Hall in Kuala Belait yesterday. Picture: BT/Saifulizam



His Majesty (R), presenting the plaque keys to recipients of the Panaga Housing Scheme. Picture: BT/Saifulizam

Amir Noor and Sally Piri
BELAIT

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

HIS Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam yesterday awarded key plaques to 650 recipients of houses under the Panaga National Housing Scheme. His Majesty was greeted upon arrival at the Convention Centre Building Hall of Jalan McKerron, Kuala Belait by Minister of Development Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Hj Suyoi Hj Osman, Minister of Home Affairs Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Hj Badaruddin Pengarah Dato Paduka Hj Othman and Belait District Officer Matussin Orang Kaya Sura Hj Tuba.

In his welcoming address, the Belait district officer expressed his appreciation for His Majesty's presence as well as personally handing over the house keys to the recipients for the two national housing schemes.

Out of the 650 recipients who received the keys from His Majesty yesterday, 315 were for semi-detached houses and Semi-Detached homes while the rest were for the terrace homes, all had registered under the Panaga National Housing Scheme.

Following the handing over of the keys, His Majesty proceeded to visit the Sayyidina Ali Secondary School and some of the homes of the recipients of both the semi-detached and terrace houses.

According to a press release from the ministry, the recipients of the houses were applicants from 1994 to 2003 and 1984 to 1994 under the National Housing Scheme and the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ), respectively.

To date, an estimated 13,000 houses or lots have been allocated nationwide with about 9,000 units for the National Housing Scheme and 4,000 units for STKRJ. However, only 2,200 units and 650 units are for the Belait District under respective schemes.

In regards to the Panaga National Housing Scheme for Belait District, the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) has been entrusted by the His Majesty's government to develop 2,000 housing units, where they appointed Syarikat Bina Puri Sdn Bhd in implementing the construction of the project which began in April 2009 and completed in April 2011.

From the 2,000 housing units being built, 800 units were semi-detached while the rest were terrace houses.

Each of the semi-detached unit is measured at about 131.1 square metres, while the terrace has an area of 127.5 square meters and include a vacuum sewerage system and optic fiber for the houses.

The price offered to the applicant's was \$62,000 for the semi-detached, the corner terrace units was at \$45,000 while the centre unit costs \$43,000.

For 2014, a total of 17,500 units/lots is expected to be built nationwide, inclusive of those which have already been developed by BEDB and the STKRJ project by the Department of Housing and Public Works Department.

From the total, 3,970 are allocated in Belait District. A total 334 units are in Kg Lorong Tengah, 1,494 units in Kg Lumut/Sg Liang, 142 units in Kg Mumong and 2,000 units in Kg Panaga.

Out of the 17,500 units, a total of 2,911 units/lots have already been completed and another 1,561 units/lots have already been assigned to the applicants.

The Brunei Times