HONoured: MB hopes 20,000 units will be built in Kedah

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The first 1,000 of the 50,000 PRIMA Corporation Malaysia (PRIMA) houses will be built in Sungai Petani, Kedah, and the 45,000 more to be built nationwide have been approved by the PRIMA board of directors.

Kedah Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir said the state government was honoured to be providing venues for fulfilling the Federal Government’s promise to assist neople overcome the increasing house prices.

"Through PRIMA and the involvement of other agencies, such as Kedah Regional Development Authority and Sinar Anjar Perumahan Nusara Berhad, we are aiming for 20,000 PRIMA houses to be built in Kedah.

"This partnership is hoped to be fully fruitful by 2018 to help ease the cost of living for middle-income earners," Mukhriz said. He said this before witnessing the memorandum of understanding for PRIMA house projects.

"Through PRIMA, we are working with other agencies to ensure the houses are of good quality and will be built according to the needs of the people,“ he said.

"Dates for balloting will be announced soon. We are refining details, such as the design and house types, as well as their locations, including in Sabah and Sarawak," he said, adding that construction had started here in Johor Bahru.

PRIMA is building single-storey and double-storey terrace and semi-detached houses, with prices ranging from RM150,000 to RM250,000.

"Those eligible can log online at www.prima.my and apply for free," Mukhriz said, adding that PRIMA had not appointed any party or agents for the houses.

‘Fatwa council not used to stifle dissent’

KUALA LUMPUR: Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom said there was no personal interests involved in issuing the National Fatwa Council as a tool to stifle dissent.

He said such claims were unfounded, adding that the council was only carrying out its responsibilities through the multitudes in the name of Islam. He said in his statement.

"There are 14 multitudes here and it is impossible that they are all being used. Furthermore, no personal interest is involved," he said.

He also statement that the council was not involved in any other matters.

"I am an ordinary council and I have no personal interests involved in the matter. I am not involved in any other matters," he said.

Jamil Khir was commenting on a news portal which quoted several Islamic practitioners as saying the Fatwa Council was involved in stifle dissent.

Few Chinese sign up for police volunteer unit

IPON: Chinese applicants made up less than three per cent of the 1,410 registered applicants for the police Volunteer Reserves (PVR) which started on Monday.

The registration record for the PVR initiative showed that only 34 applicants were Chinese, with 13 of them registering at Pasir Puteh police station train-in centre yesterday morning.

Malays made up the vast majority (1,017) of applicants, while Indians and other races made up the fewest, at 277 and 100 applicants respectively.

At the Pasir Puteh train-in centre, a Chinese participant, Choo Yue Pien, 27, said he was drawn to the programme because of a moral duty to serve the public.

People complain about the alleged rise in crime rates but they do so from behind a computer screen. I want to assist the police, as I believe my efforts may make a difference."