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Saudis to introduce GST too, says PM

By THO XIN YI
thoxinyi@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Oil-rich Saudi Arabia will soon introduce Goods and Services Tax (GST), said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, proving that the taxation is not a bad move.

The Prime Minister said if an oil-producing country like Saudi Arabia also implements GST, there must be strong reasons behind it.

"The oil price in Saudi Arabia has also gone up by 50% while ours increased by 10 to 20 sen.

"So do not confuse the rakyat and instigate them," he said, referring to the Opposition politicians who harped on the GST and oil prices in Malaysia.

Najib was speaking at the launching ceremony of the Residensi Kerinchi here, where 472 former Kampung Kerinchi PKNS Flats dwellers were compensated with new three-bedroom apartment units.

Najib added that he was told by Saudi ministers, who are in town as part of a delegation headed by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, that the Middle Eastern government also provides financial aid to its people by banking money into their accounts.

"They are helping the needy and it is not bribery.

"But when we give BR1M (1Malaysia People's Aid), we are criticised as giving *rasuah* (bribe).

"BR1M is meant to help the people. We didn't say you must support Barisan Nasional after you receive BR1M," he said.

Residensi Kerinchi was the result

of the redevelopment of the four-storey Kampung Kerinchi flats on a 2.76ha land.

The old flat units, built in 1970 by Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS), measured between 380sq ft and 705sq ft each.

Some units did not have rooms, which was an inconvenience for the residents.

Flat owners were then allowed to vote for the developer they wanted for the redevelopment project and 92.5% of them had signed a joint venture agreement with developer Suez Domain.

Construction began in March 2014 and was completed on Oct 31

last year. Flat dwellers were relocated to transit homes in PPR Kerinchi and PPR Seri Chempaka pending the completion.

The modern 900sq ft apartments in Residensi Kerinchi have three rooms, two bathrooms, balcony, kitchen cabinets and a laundry dryer.

The old and the new buildings were as "different as night and day," said Najib, with each new unit worth half a million ringgit, a 10-fold increase compared to the value of their previous flat.

Najib also spoke out against Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar who brought the matter

to court.

"She prioritised politics. For her, if this project was a success, it would bring good name to Barisan Nasional.

"However, her attempts failed and this project became a reality.

"This is not about politics but the welfare and benefit of the people," Najib said.

Also present at the launch were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar and Lembah Pantai Umno chief Datuk Seri Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin.



Brand new:
(From left) Tengku Adnan, Noh, Najib and Suez Capital Sdn Bhd director Datuk Yasran Hussein posing for a photo in one of the units at Residensi Kerinchi during its launch in Kuala Lumpur.

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