

Headline : Najib and Rosmah get taste of Orang Asli life
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Najib and Rosmah get taste of Orang Asli life

GERIK: The visit to the Belum-Temenggor rainforest by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, provides the couple with an opportunity to experience the culture of the Orang Asli community there.

After opening Phase Two of the Belum Rainforest Resort, Najib and wife, accompanied by several other VIPs, were taken to Kampung Budaya Orang Asli Tanjung Satu nearby.

They were welcomed by the Orang Asli from several villages in the area and then taken to see the handicraft products, like mat and basket made from mengkuang or screw-pine, produced by the community there for income.

Najib and Rosmah also visited a child centre where 10 Orang Asli children were taught to learn using the iPlay Toy Library approach, an initiative by the Emkay Foundation.

At the venue, Rosmah spent some time with the children and got them to eat banana dip in chocolate, which is a new experience for the Orang Asli children.

The Prime Minister and his wife were then feted to a feast of Orang Asli food, like grilled tapioca and fish and rice cooked in bamboo, followed by coffee served in bamboo cups.

Before leaving the Orang Asli community, Najib and Rosmah also spent some time with children participating in the Malaysian Green Ranger Camp, a programme to expose children to wildlife and environment conservation. – Bernama



Najib taking part in an Orang Asli traditional activity while Rosmah (left) looks on.

Headline : Emkay to launch Belum Rainforest Villas in Sept
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Emkay to launch Belum Rainforest Villas in Sept

GERIK: The Emkay Group is expected to launch the third phase of the Belum Rainforest Resort, known as Belum Rainforest Villas, comprising 45 exclusive villas in September this year.

Its chief executive officer Ahmad Khalif Mustapha Kamal said the villas, with built-ups ranging from 4,000 to 5,000 sq ft on 0.1 to two hectares land size, would be built using eco-friendly materials and techniques.

"The villas will be built between trees and we would like to sell and managed it for companies and high-profile individuals to have a place in Pulau Banding as part of Belum forest legacy," he told a news conference after the launch of the Belum Rainforest Resort second phase by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak here Friday.

Ahmad Khalif said the gross development value (GDV) for the third phase amounted to RM120 million and the villas were priced from RM9 million to RM12 million each.

"The concept is sell and build, we will not commence until we have the buyers," he said adding that the group is promoting the project to companies and high-profile individuals.

Meanwhile, Pulau Banding Development Marketing and Sales Director Norhayati Hamzah said the construction would have very minimal impact on the environment and the forest itself as the design was inspired from nature.

"For a start, we will build about 18 villas at the southern part of Banding Island and it is estimated to complete in one-and-a-half years," she said.

She said the development approach for the villas consisted of three key elements -- man, earth and materials. — Bernama