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## **Berjaya Youth embarks on its 2<sup>nd</sup> build project for a needy Orang Asli family in Gopeng, Perak**

Gopeng, 31 May 2015 - Berjaya Youth (B.Youth) embarked on its second build project in collaboration with EPIC Homes from 29 – 31 May 2015. The new home was built for a needy Orang Asli family in Kampung Ulu Geruntum, Gopeng, Perak with the combined effort of 35 youth volunteers aged 18 to 34.

The build project was made possible with the collaboration of EPIC Homes, a social enterprise which aims to provide sustainable homes for the underprivileged Malaysian communities, with its current focus on the Orang Asli living in the Peninsular Malaysia.

All the volunteers had gone through a builders basic workshop two weeks ago which required them to learn about the basic construction methods and skills such as carpentry, hammering, drilling as well as knowledge on tools handling and safety precautions.

The beneficiary of the new home is Roni a/l Hassan, a 25-year-old Orang Asli from the Semai tribe who makes a living by doing odd jobs in construction. Roni, his wife Nitol and 3 children are currently staying in a dilapidated house measuring about 600 sq ft together with 2 other families. With 10 people living in the small house with its bare space serving as a living room, a bedroom and a kitchen, overcrowding has been obvious and that has put a strain on the structure of the house.

The new home, a 6-module house designed by EPIC Homes measuring 640 sq ft, comes with a living room, a kitchen and 3 bedrooms.

There are many deserving families in this Orang Asli village who are in need of help as their existing dwellings which were not well built are showing signs of succumbing to the elements after many years of exposure.

Roni and his family are chosen as beneficiaries of the new home after an evaluation and selection process was conducted by B.Youth and EPIC Homes, with the help of the village head based on various factors such as the extent of dilapidation, number of people staying under one roof and their means of livelihood.

This is the second build project undertaken by B.Youth. The first build project was carried out in August last year which saw more than 30 youth volunteers joining forces to build a new home for an Orang Asli family in Gombak, Selangor.

“We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response from the volunteers. This shows that there are many young Malaysians out there who are willing to volunteer for meaningful activities such as this build. In fact, we had to decline quite a number of interested volunteers as all the 35 slots were very quickly taken up within a week of the sign-up posting on our Facebook. This project has not only given the volunteers an opportunity to learn about teamwork, organizational skills and endurance, but also exposure to the Orang Asli’s way of life and tradition. The sense of fulfilment at the end of the build is certainly good,” said Judy Tan, Senior General Manager, Corporate Communications Division of Berjaya Corporation Berhad.

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*About Berjaya Youth:*

Berjaya Youth (B.Youth) is a platform created by Berjaya Corporation Berhad specifically for the youth community of Malaysia which aims to enable Malaysian youths to make a difference in our community in respect of 4 key pillars – inspiration, creativity, eco and animal. Through Berjaya Youth, young people are given the opportunities to participate in various exciting projects which nurture them in the areas of leadership, creativity, proactivity, volunteerism, positive thinking and good values.

Other than the annual Berjaya Youth Short Film Competition, some of the past and upcoming exciting projects include Reasons For Hope – A Talk by Dr. Jane Goodall, Stop Hunger Now Meal Packing Event, It’s Pawssible Campaign (an animal welfare project), Eco Tioman Island Clean-Up Day, TEDxYouth@KL (as the ideas partner) and many more. For further information, please visit [www.facebook.com/berjayayouth](http://www.facebook.com/berjayayouth) or [www.berjayayouth.com](http://www.berjayayouth.com).

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For media enquiries, please contact Ms Emily Tan ([emily.tan@berjaya.com.my](mailto:emily.tan@berjaya.com.my) / 018-3723062) or Ms Kalpana Sri ([kalpana@berjaya.com.my](mailto:kalpana@berjaya.com.my) / 03-21491524).