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## GENERAL

## MAF veteran receives first 'bamboocrete' prototype house













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TAMPIN, April 10 -- Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) veteran Khamis Jobok became the first person to receive a 'bamboocrete' prototype house built through a collaboration between Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM) and the MAF Veteran Affairs Department (JHEV) here today.

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UPNM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Brig Gen Prof Dr Norazman Mohamad Nor said the pilot project to build the 81-square-metre single-storey house in Kampung Seri Repah made use of 'semantan' bamboo as reinforcement in lightweight concrete.

Norazaman, who is also the project leader, said the use of bamboo could help reduce construction costs, besides being more sustainable.

"The construction of the house which uses the industrial building system (IBS) involving a cost of RM85,000, is fully borne by the Ministry of Higher Education's Prototype Research Grant Scheme (PRGS).

"The term 'bamboocrete' comes from the combination of bamboo (bamboo) and concrete," he said during the handing over ceremony of the house here today.

He said the design of the house was made in July last year, while construction began in September and fully completed by Feb 15 this year.

The house was built on land owned by Khamis, who is a former soldier.

The 57-year-old, meanwhile, expressed gratitude for receiving the new house.

"Finally, my family and I are able to occupy a house on our own land. My wife and six children aged 12 to 26 are definitely elated," he said.

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