



Fatimah Abdullah (right) and her mother, Wan Limah Wan Ahmad, at their newly-refurbished home in Kuantan yesterday. PIC BY MUHAMMAD ASYRAF SAWAL

FACELIFT D' KUALA PROGRAMME

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Pekan folk overjoyed over newly-refurbished homes

PEKAN: Fatimah Abdullah's voice choked with emotion as she spoke about her newly-refurbished single-storey house at Kampung Kuala Pahang here yesterday.

The mother of three could not contain her excitement as she proudly took those present for a quick tour of the house to show her new dining table set, study tables, sofa set and solar panel, which were installed last week.

The 46-year-old, who has been living in the settlement for 40 years, described the free repair and painting works as "a dream come true".

"There were holes on the wooden floor, termites had destroyed the walls and the environment inside the house wasn't conducive for my children to study. It was tough as my husband is an odd-job worker.

"But, now, everything has changed. My house has undergone a major transformation.

"We have a new zinc roof, the floor has been changed and covered with carpets, and there are study tables for my children.

"I was thinking of doing the repairs once my eldest son starts

working. I can only thank God for providing all this assistance."

She said two of her children, who will be sitting Ujian Penilaian Sekolah Rendah and the Form Three Assessment next year, had a study room now.

Fatimah is among 52 residents from the settlement who were selected by **Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)** for its Facelift D' Kuala programme, which aims to transform the people's social landscape in Kuala Pahang.

The activities involve transforming the once-sleepy fishing village into a vibrant and favourite destination for seafood lovers by refurbishing dilapidated houses.

Single mother Rohani Abdullah, 46, said she was grateful to Prime Minister and Pekan member of parliament Datuk Seri Najib Razak and UMP for transforming the livelihood of people here.

The mother of four said workers from UMP's Faculty of Civil Engineering and Earth Resources visited her home before providing a proposal on how the house would be given a fresh look.