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MAHATHIR-HOUSING
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 23 ⁸¹ (BERNAMA) -- ⁹ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD MALAYS TODAY THAT IT IS NO DISGRACE TO LIVE IN FLATS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY COULD HAVE THE MOST LUXURIOUS OF FLATS IF THEY COULD AFFORD THE COST.

HE URGED URBAN MALAYS TO BE WILLING TO MAKE SOME SACRIFICES IN THEIR WAY OF LIFE IF THEY WISHED TO CONTINUE STAYING IN URBAN AREAS.

+THEY CAN STILL HAVE A PROPER WAY OF LIFE EVEN IN FLATS ALTHOUGH THE WAY OF LIFE WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY HAVE KNOWN IN THE RURAL AREAS+, HE ADDED WHEN LAUNCHING THE MALAYSIAN BUMIPUTRA HOUSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION.

THE FORMATION OF THE ASSOCIATION IS INITIATED BY THE UMNO YOUTH MALAYSIA HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION BUREAU.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF UMNO, URGED MALAYS IN URBAN AREAS TO ADAPT TO THE CONDITIONS OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT. --BERNAMA MORE 2005/MD

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HE ALSO EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTION OF CONDOMINIUM HOUSING FOR LOW-INCOME GROUPS IN TOWNS.

HE SAID THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO MAXIMISE RESIDENTIAL DENSITY TO OVERCOME SCARCITY OF LAND IN URBAN AREAS AND ENSURE BETTER HOUSING FOR THE LESS WELL-OFF WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE TO SETTLE FOR SQUATTER-TYPE ACCOMMODATION.

HE WELCOMED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION WHICH HE SAID COULD HELP THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TACKLE PROBLEMS OF HOUSING.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF MALPRACTICES IN THE HOUSING INDUSTRY AND HOPED THE ASSOCIATION WOULD PROVIDE FEEDBACK IN THIS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

DEPUTY HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER DATUK HAJI ZAKARIA ABDUL RAHMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD FORMULATED A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOW-COST PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMMES.

THEY INCLUDED ESTABLISHMENT OF LIAISON COMMITTEES IN EVERY STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LOW-COST HOUSING SCHEMES. --BERNAMA MORE 2010/MD

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HE REGRETTED THAT BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN THE HOUSING INDUSTRY WAS STILL NOT WHAT IT SHOULD BE.

ACCORDING TO DATUK HAJI ZAKARIA, BUMIPUTRAS OWNED ONLY 17.4 PERCENT OF 246,966 UNITS OF HOUSES LICENSED FOR CONSTRUCTION.

AND ONLY 213 OF 1,776 LICENSED HOUSING DEVELOPERS WERE BUMIPUTRAS.

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT TAMRIN ABDUL GHAFAR WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE BUREAU SUGGESTED THAT A NATIONAL HOUSING BANK BE SET UP TO OVERCOME HOUSING PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THE BANK COULD BE SET UP BY EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR OR BY BOTH AS A JOINT VENTURE TO FINANCE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS.

MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE INCLUDING FINANCE MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, WELFARE SERVICES MINISTER DATIN PADUKA HAJJAH AISHAH GHANI AND DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER HAJJ SUHAIMI DATUK KAMARUDDIN ATTENDED THE CEREMONY. --BERNAMA 2015/MD

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