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POLICE-HOUSES R'R'R'
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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 5 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED A THREE-YEAR CRASH PROGRAMME, COSTING NEARLY \$500 MILLION, TO BUY AND BUILD 9,369 HOUSES TO OVERCOME THE HOUSING SHORTAGE FACED BY POLICE PERSONNEL, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS.

THE THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME INVOLVES THE PURCHASE OF 7,432 COMPLETED HOUSES AND THOSE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION FROM PRIVATE DEVELOPERS AT A COST OF \$411.6 MILLION AND CONSTRUCTION OF 1,937 HOUSES ON LAND BELONGING TO THE ROYAL MALAYSIA POLICE AT A COST OF \$88.4 MILLION.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DURING A DIALOGUE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THREE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING POLICE PERSONNEL AT THE BUKIT AMAN POLICE HEADQUARTERS HERE.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER ATTENDED A TWO-HOUR BRIEFING BY SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS LED BY INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE TAN SRI HANIFF OMAR.

HOME MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK WAN SIDEK ABDUL RAHMAN TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE BRIEFING THAT 80 PER CENT OF THE POLICE PERSONNEL IN THE KLANG VALLEY, KUALA LUMPUR, PULAU PINANG, JOHOR BAHRU, SEREMBAN, KUALA TERENGGANU, FRASERS HILL, KANGAR, ALOR SETAR AND MELAKA WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAMME. -- MORE
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POLICE-HOUSES 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

HE SAID THE PROGRAMME WOULD GIVE EMPHASIS TO BUILDING FLATS OF FIVE STOREYS OR MORE FOR LOWER-RANKING STAFF WHO WERE UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE HIGH RENTALS THEY WERE PAYING FROM THEIR HOUSING ALLOWANCES.

DATUK WAN SIDEK SAID HE WILL CHAIR A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO

IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMME. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE TAN SRI HANIFF, FINANCE MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL TAN SRI ZAIN AZRAAI ZAINAL ABIDIN, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT, DATUK MOHAMED SHERIFF MOHAMED KASSIM, AND A DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID SOME 660 HOUSES WOULD BE PURCHASED WITHIN THE NEXT SEVEN MONTHS UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THERE ARE NOW 33,000 UNITS OF POLICE QUARTERS AGAINST 76,000 POLICE PERSONNEL IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK WAN SIDEK SAID THE CURRENT POLICE HOUSING PROGRAMME WOULD BE CONTINUED TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF BUILDING 10,000 UNITS UNDER THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

SO FAR, 4,064 UNITS COSTING \$200.5 MILLION HAD BEEN COMPLETED WHILE 3,814 UNITS COSTING \$221 MILLION WERE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION. -- MORE

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POLICE-HOUSES 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

HE SAID THE THREE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING POLICE PERSONNEL REQUESTED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS HOME MINISTER, TO RECONSIDER THE ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTABLES.

DATUK WAN SIDEK SAID THE PRIME MINISTER FELT ANOTHER DIALOGUE COULD BE CONVENED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

AT PRESENT, THE ENTRY QUALIFICATION FOR THE POST OF CONSTABLE IS THE SIJIL RENDAH PELAJARAN (SRP).

ASKED WHETHER THE HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR POLICE PERSONNEL WOULD BE RAISED, HE SAID THE POLICE HOUSING PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED FIRST. -- BERNAMA

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