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Ting-Houses

CONSENSUS SOUGHT FOR LOW-COST HOUSE PRICE TAG

IPOH, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- The Housing and Local Government Ministry will seek the consensus of state governments before implementing the system of determining prices of low-cost houses based on its location.

Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said his ministry would discuss with state governments on the new price tag which would exceed the present RM25,000 ceiling for each unit as some states were not in favour of the price hike.

"If prices are not raised, low-cost houses can only be built far away from towns particularly from big towns and this will not solve the housing woes of the low-income group in urban areas," he told reporters here yesterday.

He said this when commenting on the statements by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib who have disagreed with the proposal to fix the prices according to the location.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said on Saturday that prices of low-cost houses would be fixed according to their location as it was no longer possible to maintain the RM25,000 ceiling due to high land cost.

Dr Ting said demand for houses built far away from town was also doubtful.

However, his ministry would listen to the views of the state governments as land matters were under their jurisdiction, he said.

He also said 223 developers were fined a total of RM719,000 last year for breaching the Housing Developers' Act 1966 and Housing Developers' Regulations 1989.

They were booked for putting up confusing advertisements, not having sales and advertising permits, he said.

Many of the offences were committed by developers in Klang Valley, Pulau Pinang and Johor Baharu, he added. -- BERNAMA

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