

06 MAY 1996

7MP-Reaction (Housing)

HOUSING DEVELOPERS CONFIDENT OF ACHIEVING HOUSING TARGET

KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Housing developers today expressed confidence that they can achieve the target of building 570,000 units or 71.3 per cent of the total 800,000 units of housing required during the Seventh Malaysia Plan period.

Housing Developers Association president Lawrence Chan said today the private developers were confident of achieving the task based on the track record during the Sixth Malaysia Plan (6MP)

"We have built 217,079 units of low-cost houses which is more than 100 per cent of the number targeted," he told Bernama, here.

He said the HDA believed that private developers had the capacity to meet the targeted figure and were honoured to be given the increasingly important role in meeting the housing needs.

"It shows that the government has the confidence to rely on the private developers to play an increasingly important role to help the government in its social agenda, especially the housing needs," he said.

The Seventh Malaysia Plan tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Dewan Rakyat today, is expected to see the construction of 800,000 more houses, over 70 per cent of which are low and low-medium cost units.

During the period, the private sector is expected to build about 570,000 units or 73.1 per cent of the total -- including 24.6 per cent low-cost houses and 42.1 per cent low medium-cost houses.

Chan said, however, that the developers alone could not play the role as other related agencies such as the state governments, utility companies and infrastructure agencies also had to chip in.

Besides, adequate supply of building materials such as cement, bricks and steel would help the construction industry to further strengthen developers capacity, he said.

"Overall, the targeted plan (even with the bigger number) in housing can be achieved but it must be done truly in the spirit of Malaysia Incorporated and a caring society," he added. -- BERNAMA

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