

20 MAR 1996

Housing

HOUSING PROJECTS TO OVERCOME SHORTAGE OF RENTED HOUSES WELCOMED

KUANTAN, March 20 (Bernama) -- The state government has agreed in principle to the construction of housing projects near the Kuantan Port and Gebeng Industrial Zone to overcome shortage of rented houses for workers.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today there had been proposals from the private sector to develop a new township in the area.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the weekly exco meeting here, Khalil said the state government encouraged private housing projects to meet demand by workers.

He was commenting on the recent statement by Beserah state assemblyman Jamal Nasir Ismail that there were some 30 squatter houses on government land in the area between Cherating and Chendor.

According to the assemblyman, the emergence of these squatter houses was due to shortage of rented houses for workers involved in the industrial and tourism industries in the state.

Khalil said that even though no illegal immigrants were found so far squatting on government land, the authorities were keep tabs especially in the port area as well as in Gebeng and Gambang to prevent such activity.

On the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that local authorities should issue the Certificate of Fitness (CF) to premises within six months after the completion, he said local councils in the state did not face problems issuing the CFs.

He said the state government also did not wait long to issue the CFs especially for commercial buildings, hotels and low-cost houses since such move would caused parties concerned to incur losses.

Today's meeting approved the hike in allowances for 463 village heads and chairmen of village development and security committees (JKKK) effective from March 1 where each would receive RM200 a month apart from the increase in several other allowances.

State Rural Development and Village Growth Centre Committee chairman Datuk Omar Othman said the decision would cost the state government RM1.4 million in additional expenditure per year. --BERNAMA

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