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Houses

LOW-COST HOUSES MAY BE RENTED OUT TO THE LOWER-INCOME GROUP

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- The government may buy low-cost housing units from private developers and rent them out to squatters and the lower-income group, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

He said that the Cabinet, at its meeting today, directed the ministry to conduct a feasibility study on the proposal following complaints that the construction of low-cost units, especially in the Klang Valley, the Federal Territory, Selangor, Johor and Pulau Pinang, did not really benefit the target group.

It also arose following discussions between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and government agencies, the Selangor government and Kuala Lumpur City Hall on the squatter problem last week.

The feasibility study would involve government agencies and state-owned companies, Dr Ting told reporters after a post-Cabinet meeting at his ministry here.

He hoped that the proposal, to ensure that the target group was given the opportunity to own houses, could be implemented next year.

It would only involve low-cost units to be constructed from next year, he added.

Dr Ting said that the government did not wish to sell the units as it felt that renting would be cheaper for the lower-income group and the squatters than buying the units.

The government also felt that they would eventually be able to afford to buy medium-cost houses when their economic situation improves, he added.

It is estimated that some 26,000 low-cost units are required in Selangor and 40,000 in the Federal Territory. -- BERNAMA

HAK RM