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Zin-Pricing

MELAKA SAYS AYE TO LOW-COST HOUSE PRICE HIKE

MELAKA, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- The Melaka Government will propose to the Housing and Local Government Ministry to raise prices of low-cost houses in the state based on the location, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani said today.

The proposed price is between RM30,000 and RM40,000 a unit for projects around Melaka town due to the high land cost, he said.

However, the state government would retain the present RM25,000 ceiling for low-cost houses in rural areas, he told reporters after visiting houses damaged by strong winds and heavy rain at Kampung Bukit Tembakau, Kampung Bukit Kecil and Kampung Teluk Mas here.

He said the state government had in 1994 proposed to raise the prices but was rejected.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said on Saturday that prices of low-cost houses should be determined based on the location as the present RM25,000 ceiling was no longer practical due to the high land cost.

If the proposal was accepted, Zin said the state government would study the income eligibility of applicants to own low-cost houses which had been fixed at RM1,000 a month.

The state government has set a target to build 10,000 low-cost houses under the Seventh Malaysia Plan, he said, adding that 2,000 units had already been built.

He said Pembangunan Pembinaan Melaka Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of the Melaka Development Corporation, has been appointed to undertake the low-cost housing schemes.

In KOTA KINABALU, Sabah Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin said the state government would review prices of low-cost houses and would submit recommendations to the Federal Government on the new proposed prices within a month.

He said the review would also take into account whether the present ceiling price of between RM25,000 to RM32,000 a unit was profitable to developers.

The state government would also consider the affordability of those in the low and medium income bracket when carrying out the review, he told reporters after opening the Bukit Vor forest conservation project, a recreation centre in Putatan, near here.

"We do not want to raise the prices too high beyond the means of the local people as developers may sell the houses to outsiders and hence, the housing woes in the state remain unresolved," he said.

He reminded developers not to give priority to medium-cost and luxury apartments only but also build low-cost houses for those in the low income bracket. -- BERNAMA

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