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Ghani-Housing

NO PLANS TO INCREASE PRICE OF LOW-COST HOUSES, SAYS ABDUL GHANI

JOHOR BAHRU, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- The Johor government has no plans to increase the price of low-cost houses and will adopt several measures to maintain the price at RM25,000 per unit.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said these measures would include locating housing projects away from the towns and making it compulsory for developers to build various types of houses in their projects.

In this way, he said the price of low-cost houses could be maintained as low as possible to enable the poor people in the state to own houses.

"In areas where the land is expensive, it can be used for other projects like commercial buildings," he told reporters after attending the "Chef's Table" function held in conjunction with "Malam Simfoni Juita" at Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel here, today.

He said it was important to keep the price of low-cost houses to the minimum because the priority was to provide housing to the people especially in Johor.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said future price of low-cost houses would be fixed based on their locations as the current price of RM25,000 per unit was no longer realistic following escalating prices of land especially in the urban areas.

During the function, Abdul Ghani who played chef succeeded in raising RM460,000 towards the cost of a building for abused children. The project is estimated to cost RM700,000.

Earlier, opening the Open Day and Fest of Hospital Permai Tampoi, Abdul Ghani said the stigma attached to mentally ill people as aggressive humans and a threat to others should be discarded.

He said family members should provide guidance and accept such individuals back into society.

"Many of them can be cured of their illness through treatment," he said in his speech which was read out by State Unity, Women Affairs and Social Welfare Committee Chairman Puan Halimah Sadique. -- BERNAMA

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