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PROPOSAL PAPER ON NEW PRICE FOR LOW-COST HOUSES

PANTAI REMIS, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Housing and Local Government Ministry will prepare a proposal paper for the Cabinet on the new price for low-cost houses in areas where land is expensive, its minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

He said the ministry hoped to complete the proposal paper by the end of the year.

Among the areas identified are the Kelang Valley, Pulau Pinang and Johor Baharu where the price of land is very high, he told reporters after opening the MCA branch office at Kampung Baru Changkat Keruing, near here.

Dr Ting said in these areas the cost of low-cost houses would come to between RM35,000 and RM40,000 per unit, exceeding the current fixed price of RM25,000 per unit.

The move to fix the price of low-cost houses according to areas was to ensure that the government's objective of building 650,000 units under the Seventh Malaysia Plan (7MP) could be achieved much earlier, he said.

He said that pending a final decision on the new price, low-cost houses would continue to be sold at the current price of RM25,000 per unit.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said yesterday that the suggestion that the price be fixed according to areas was a good one and realistic since the developers had problems building building low-cost houses in areas where the price of land was much higher. -- BERNAMA

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