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Ting-Land

STATE GOV'TS SHOULDN'T THINK OF PROFITS ONLY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 26 (Bernama) -- State governments should not think of making profits only but to help the federal government by approving land for low and medium-cost houses, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

"If we call on the private developers to provide low-cost houses on a cross-subsidy basis, then state governments should also act likewise," he told reporters after opening the annual meeting of Selangor MCA Youth and Wanita here.

He said the ministry would keep in touch with state executive councillors in charge of housing to find ways to resolve the problem.

He was commenting on a newspaper report on the reluctance of state governments to approve land for low-cost and medium cost housing projects to be developed by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF).

Reminding state governments of their social responsibility, Dr Ting said their cooperation was necessary as land was under their jurisdiction.

Dr Ting said the sites allocated should be suitable and not too far from urban areas as the need for low-cost houses was normally felt in major towns especially in Selangor, Pulau Pinang, the Federal Territory and Johor.

In January, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that the EPF would carry out massive low and medium-cost housing projects.

Dr Ting, who is MCA Secretary-General, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would open the the MCA general assembly on July 6 which would be attended by some 2,400 delegates. -- BERNAMA

RAM MTA ABG