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Mahathir-housing

THE PRIVATE SECTOR PERFORMED BETTER IN LOW-COST HOUSING PROGRAMME, PM

LANGKAWI, April 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the government's decision to give full responsibility to the private sector to undertake public low-cost housing projects was made after considering its track record.

He said that private developers had clearly proven that they could achieve the target of the public low-cost housing programme better than the government.

"We found that they had performed better than us and therefore it is just right that we hand over the implementation of the programme to them," he said at a news conference after opening the national sports convention here.

Dr Mahathir said that the government seemed to be faced with various obstacles in its implementation of the programme.

The government's performance was rather disappointing, he added.

He however said that the decision did not in any way indicate that the government was abandoning its responsibility with regard to the programme.

"We will continue to be involved like in the allocation of the units," he said.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said yesterday that the performance of state governments in the implementation of public low-cost housing programme under the Sixth Malaysia Plan was unsatisfactory with only 30 per cent of the 82,414 units completed.

The private sector had however been able to complete 99 per cent of the targeted 214,889 units.

Dr Ting said that the private sector was expected to take over the implementation of the programme under the Seventh Malaysia Plan. -- Bernama

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