

03 JAN 1997

Act-Houses

SPECIAL ATTENTION FOR PRE-WAR BUILDING TENANTS

BUTTERWORTH, Jan 3 (Bernama) -- The Housing and Local Government Ministry will cooperate with state governments to solve the housing woes of pre-war building tenants before repealing the Rent Control Act.

Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh hoped state governments would give priority to them to obtain low-cost houses.

He said tenants of pre-war buildings should be given special attention as they would be homeless once the Act was repealed.

With the abolition of the Act, building owners could rebuild or renovate their buildings, he said.

The Act would be repealed after the Government enact the Heritage Building Act which would be tabled in Parliament in March, he told reporters after opening a Chinese temple at Jalan Pantai Bersih here today.

Dr Ting said there were some 36,000 pre-war buildings nationwide with more than 60,000 occupants and almost half of the buildings were in Pulau Pinang.

Pre-war buildings or houses are those built before 1948.

He said the government had drawn up a rental scheme for those who did not have the means to prevent them from losing their homes after the Act was scrapped.

He said the government would draw up guidelines under the Heritage Building Act to enable building owners to rebuild or renovate their premises.

Dr Ting also said that the National Housing Department was drawing up a price formula for low-cost houses based on the location.

He said the formula was being drawn up in line with the proposal by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that prices of low-cost houses be fixed according to the locality and need not be limited to RM25,000 a unit if the housing project was sited in a urban area where the land cost was high. -- BERNAMA

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