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Directive to improve low-cost unit allocation system

SHAH ALAM, Sun. - The Selangor Economic Planning Unit has been directed to improve the system of allocating completed low-cost houses to eligible buyers in the State.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the system needed to be upgraded to ensure that low-cost houses which had been completed would not be vacant for long.

"The State Government is aware of the problem and efforts are being made to resolve it as soon as possible.

"The State Executive Council meeting recently directed the State Economic Planning Unit to improve the system of allocation to prevent the problem from recurring," he told reporters after hosting a Hari Raya gathering for current and former Selangor Foundation scholars at his official residence near here, today.

Abu Hassan was commenting on a statement by Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh yesterday, that thousands of units of completed low-cost houses in Selangor and Johor had been left vacant because of the delay in allocating them to eligible buyers.

Ting said he had received complaints from developers in the two States who have to pay for the extended holding fees and the cost of maintaining the houses.

He had said that some of the houses had been completed more than a year ago, but were still vacant because the State Governments concerned had not allocated them to eligible buyers.

In Selangor, the practice of allocating low-cost units is decided by the State Government through its centralised, computerised low-cost housing registration centre and the local councils on 50-50 basis.

Abu Hassan said the problem arose because of the extensive vetting that had to be carried out by the centralised registration centre as several applicants were not eligible for low-cost houses.

He cited an example of a project in Bukit Beruntung which was visited by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad recently.

"The number of low-cost houses available in the area was 3,000 and the number of applications for the units was 6,000.

"But when the applications were processed, it was found that most of the applicants were not eligible," he said.

Abu Hassan said it was better for the State Government to be extra careful during the vetting process rather than deprive those who were really eligible and in need of low-cost houses.

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