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Mahathir-House

PRICE OF LOW-COST HOUSE STAYS AT RM25,000, SAYS MAHATHIR

RAWANG, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today low-cost houses in towns are still priced at RM25,000 a unit although developers are unable to cover their costs.

The government could not raise the price due to protests from the people, he said when asked if it planned to do that in urban and other areas where the price of land was high.

"We want to (raise the price in towns) but the reaction, as seen in newspapers, is that the low-cost house price cannot be increased forever," he told a press conference after visiting the Emkay group's Taman Bunga Raya housing project site in Bukit Beruntung here.

Dr Mahathir said purchasers should by right be prepared to pay a higher price for low-cost houses in places like Kuala Lumpur.

"(If however) we want to stay in rural areas, even medium cost or high cost houses are cheap," he said.

On allegations that low-cost houses were being sold for more than RM25,000 in some places, he said that could probably be the case of buyers paying "under-the-counter" money to certain people to get a house.

In his speech earlier, Dr Mahathir said developers would suffer losses if low-cost houses in towns continued to be sold for RM25,000.

He said the developers could not go on subsidising low-cost housing projects.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir called on all developers to set up a one-stop centre at their sales office to enable house buyers to deal with relevant parties such as the EPF and banks at the same place and time.

He said such a centre, which is available at the Taman Bunga Raya project, would help to save the purchasers' time.

This afternoon, Dr Mahathir attended a Kongsu-Raya gathering in Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur, jointly organised by the Malaysian Youth Council, Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (Abim), Malaysian Youth Movement and Malaysian Young Entrepreneurs Association.

In his speech, he said unity and cooperation among the various races as well as discipline were important in facing the challenges to the country now.

With these qualities all efforts to destroy the nation would fail, he said, referring to the economic and financial problems besieging Malaysia for the past few months.

Dr Mahathir said that without peace and unity among the people, a small problem would grow until it became difficult to overcome.

On the other hand, if there was unity, the country would be more peaceful and have a better chance of resolving its problems.

Hence, he said, Malaysians should close ranks to ensure the success of efforts to overcome the economic turmoil. -- BERNAMA

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