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Arbitration committees set up by Penang Government

PENANG, Sat. - The State Government has set up three arbitration committees to expedite the resolution of disputes between tenants and landlords of rent-control units in Georgetown, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today.

This, he said, was to alleviate the burden faced by tenants and pre-war building owners as the Repeal of Rent Control draws near.

The committees would be headed by the three State assemblymen under the Tanjung Parliamentary constituency - Teng Chang Yeow (Padang Kota), Lee Hack Teik (Pengkalan Kota) and Lim Gim Soon (Kampong Kolam).

More than 8,000 of the 10,000-odd rent control units in Penang, are located in this Parliamentary constituency.

Koh said this to reporters after attending the swearing-in ceremony for all 33 State assemblyman here.

Besides the committees, Koh said the BN State Government would also table a Bill for the setting up of a RM100 million revolving fund which would be utilised to help those affected by the repeal.

The repeal of Rent Control will take effect on Jan 1 next year.

"We will table this at the State Assembly sitting next week," he said.

"I will give more details of the Bill later," he added.

The State Government would also ensure that adequate affordable housing is built to meet the needs of the people, especially tenants of rent control units, he said.

These measures, according to the State BN chairman, were taken on the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, that any problem involving rent control be settled administratively.

"Anyway, from past experience, we found most of the disputes between the tenants and their landlords were resolved with little interference from the State Government," he said.

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