

21 SEP 1999

Mahathir-Homes

BUILDING FLATS OPTIMISES LAND USE, SAYS MAHATHIR

KANGAR, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that an ideal way to optimise land use for residential purposes in the country is to build apartments and flats.

In this context the government discouraged the construction of single-unit homes so as to minimise land wastage, he said when launching the construction of Perlis' public flats here today.

The government, he said, had always attached priority to providing low-cost homes to the people despite the high construction costs compared to their sales price.

Being ever-mindful of this constraint, the government insisted that developers build not only profitable high-cost units but also low-cost ones in their projects, he said.

The government could not fix RM25,000 as the standard price for low-cost units because land costs differed from one locality to another, the prime minister said.

Dr Mahathir said that to save land cost the government would have to build low cost public housing in rural areas.

He expressed hope that the people of Perlis would enjoy the new experience of living in public flats, which are yet another facility provided by the state government.

The Perlis public flats of between five and 17-storeys high, altogether involving 2,164 units, would be built in Kangar, Arau and Bintong.

Also speaking at the function, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the state government had targeted to build 6,806 low-cost units by 2001.

Since 1996, the private sector had put up 13 low-cost housing projects in the state but relatively they cost more because they were built on rice fields which required additional earthwork, he added.

-- BERNAMA

AD RYN