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#### Cheaper houses to be built for FT squatters

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The plan to build 35,000 low-cost houses and flats in the Federal Territory is to help meet the requirements of the squatters in the city, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

"The main idea is to relocate the squatters, so they will have priority for the units. However, the 35,000 units can only provide for only a portion of the squatter population in the city," Ting said.

Ting was speaking to reporters after receiving a courtesy call from the new Chinese ambassador to Malaysia Guan Dengming.

According to the mid-term review of the Seventh Malaysia Plan tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir yesterday, there were 1,044,100 squatters in Malaysia and 917,160 of those are located in the Federal Territory and Selangor.

"We cannot resolve the whole issue at once, it must be handled in stages, but the Government is serious about providing houses for squatters" Ting said.

He said the units cost between RM43,000 and RM44,000 each and were expected to take three years to build. The cost did not include the cost of basic amenities and the land.

He added that each unit would be rented out for RM124.

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