

21 JUL 1999

FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS STANDARDISE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- The state governments and federal government have agreed to take various measures which are more systematic to coordinate the jurisdictions of the state and federal entities pertaining to developments in urban and regional planning.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Ting Chew Peh said the measures would strengthen and provide a balance in the powers of the state and federal governments and the matter had been agreed by all parties at the meeting of menteri besar and chief ministers chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last week.

"In the past, many decisions on urban and regional planning at the state level were decided by the state governments in certain conditions and were not referred to the federal government," he said at a press conference after attending the weekly cabinet meeting, here today.

He said under the constitution, matters pertaining to urban and regional planning are in the joint list of both governments.

"Thus, the lack of coordination between the state governments and federal government had resulted in problems of excess real estate occurring in certain areas in the country.

"This resulted from the excessive approvals in the conversion of land use by the state government authorities. If many land conversions are made for the purpose of development, this could lead to excessive real estate in the market," he added.

-- BERNAMA

APG AO