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Ting-Housing

FULL REPORTS ON STATE LOW COST HOUSING FOR PRIME MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, May 19 (Bernama) -- All Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers have been directed to submit fortnightly reports on the progress of low cost housing projects in their states to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the National Economic Action Council (NEAC).

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today the personal directive from the Prime Minister was issued last month.

The Prime Minister in the directive wanted the State Chief Executives to give their full attention to the implementation of all types of low cost housing projects and ensure that they were implemented smoothly and speedily.

"The Government gives top priority to low cost housing projects either for sale or rental," he told reporters at his office here.

Asked whether the directive reflected the Prime Minister's dissatisfaction over the progress in low cost house construction, Dr Ting said it was to ensure that these houses were indeed built as the 100 per cent use of local materials in their construction would speed up economic recovery.

The Federal Government was implementing an integrated low cost public housing scheme involving 35,000 units in Kuala Lumpur at a cost of RM1.45 billion, he said.

Work on 12,036 low cost houses had begun and tenders were being prepared for the rest.

On completion they would be rented out to the low income group and squatters, Dr Ting added.

The prevailing rental rate for such type of houses in Kuala Lumpur was RM124 per month, RM100 in Penang, Perak and Johor.

Houses built under the public housing scheme were meant for people earning a monthly income of less than RM750 a month and squatters.

They could rent the houses for a maximum period of five years by which time their economic position was expected to improve enabling them to buy the low cost house.

Dr Ting said the Seventh Malaysia Plan low cost house target was 235,000 units and between 1996 and 1998 a total of 102,624 units had been completed in various parts of the country.

-- BERNAMA

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