

20 JAN 1999

GOPENG NOW HAS A NEW MARKET AND HAWKERS CENTRE

GOPENG, Jan 20 (Bernama) -- Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh today opened the new market and hawkers centre here with a call to local authorities to maintain cleanliness in their respective areas.

He said the Local Authorities Department in his ministry had been directed to pay attention to this problem of cleanliness in the local authority areas as highlighted in media reports.

The ministry was seriously concerned over the issue of uncleanliness and wanted local authorities to take firm action to ensure that the problem was attended to speedily.

On housing, he said despite the economic slowdown, 5,692 more houses were built last year which was a three per cent increase over that of 1997.

He said the ministry approved for construction a total of 194,092 houses last year in the various states compared to 188,400 units in 1997.

He also said that during the recent house ownership campaign which was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, total sales reached RM3.8 billion involving 500 housing developers.

This would no doubt boost the housing industry's downstream activities over the next two years, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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