

20 MAR 1999

Mahathir-Housing

GOVT TOO WILL BUILD LOW COST HOUSES IN KL

KUALA LUMPUR, March 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government apart from the private sector will also build low cost houses in the Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory.

However the government-built houses would not be sold to the people but rented out, he said.

The houses would not be of the RM25,000 type considering their location in the city centre but their rentals would nevertheless be fair, he said after launching the Taman Bunga Raya Low Cost Apartment housing project at Bukit Beruntung near here.

Dr Mahathir said the government opted to build the low cost houses as the 300,000 units of such houses to be built by the private sector were found to be insufficient.

The Prime Minister also advised flat dwellers to keep their houses and surroundings clean and attractive.

He said they should change their old lifestyle and opt for that which would be more comfortable and create a better image for themselves.

"The Government wants the people to have a good and comfortable life and they should be prepared to change, safeguard the facilities and maintain cleanliness," he said.

"The old ways of drying clothes on windows in front of the houses is no longer appropriate now," he said.

They should be prepared to spend a little more and patronise the launderette, he added.

Dr Mahathir said he was saying this so that Malaysians would lead a more comfortable life.

"Malaysians should maintain peace and harmony so that their country will enjoy progress and even more rapid development with better business opportunities and pay rises," he said.

"We should be grateful to God that even though the country is going through an economic slowdown low cost houses are still available at RM25,000 per unit despite prices having gone up," he said.

He said the prices of houses and property would go up in the future and a house was a profitable investment.

--BERNAMA

HS AAM