

23 APR 1999

35,000 CITY LOW-COST HOMES MEANT FOR SQUATTERS, SAYS TING

KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 (Bernama) -- The 35,000 unit of flats being built in the federal territory are meant to accommodate the ever-growing city squatter population, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

"Even so the number (35,000 units) is still insufficient," he told reporters here after receiving China's ambassador Guan Dengming.

Each of these flats cost between RM43,000 and RM44,000 to build and they would be completed in two to three years' time.

"They would be rented out for RM124 a month," Ting said.

The Seventh Malaysia Plan mid-term review tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Parliament yesterday said a 1998 preliminary census showed that there were 1,044,100 squatters nation-wide.

Of the number, 917,160 were local citizens concentrated mainly in the Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory and Selangor.

On his meeting with the ambassador, Ting said they discussed Malaysia's robust housing industry, among other things.

"China is impressed with our robust housing industry and during the meeting the ministry extended an invitation to the Chinese construction minister to visit Malaysia to exchange views," he added.

-- BERNAMA

NM RYN