

19 JAN 1999

Shariff-House

PULAU PINANG TO EASE INCOME RULING FOR LOW-MEDIUM-COST HOUSES

BUTTERWORTH, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- The Pulau Pinang government will study the possibility of relaxing the eligibility for low-medium-cost houses to allow those with monthly household incomes of up to RM3,000 to buy such units.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohamed Shariff Omar said that currently only those earning not more than RM2,500 were eligible for low-medium-cost houses and this prompted many people to appeal for the ruling to be relaxed.

Even people earning RM3,000 did not have much to spare after paying for fixed monthly expenses, and thus could not afford the higher-cost houses, he told reporters at his Hari Raya open house in Tasek Gelugor here today.

He will direct the State Housing Division to study how other states had relaxed similar rulings.

Shariff said it was not necessary to get clearance from the federal government to relax the ruling.

He also said houses had become quite expensive in the northeast district because of higher land prices, and this was why the 30 percent quota for low-cost units in every project in this district was now reserved for low-medium-cost houses.

On Hari Raya, he said Muslims in the country should be thankful that they could celebrate it in a festive atmosphere despite the economic downturn.

He expressed confidence that the people would continue to support the government under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad because they believed in his ability to steer the country out of its economic and political problems.

Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and other state leaders were among more than 3,000 people who attended the open house.

-- BERNAMA

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