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Osu-Houses

SABAH GOVT MOVES TO SPEED UP LOW-COST HOUSING PROJECTS

KOTA KINABALU, July 7 (Bernama) -- The Sabah government will simplify procedures governing low-cost houses in efforts to expedite construction of such homes, Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam said today.

He said the move was crucial to speed up approvals for such projects to meet the demand from low income earners.

"We are also identifying suitable sites around Kota Kinabalu, Tawau and Sandakan for the purpose," he told reporters after the weekly state Cabinet meeting.

He was commenting on a statement by Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh yesterday that the federal government was not happy with the achievement of state governments in meeting the low-cost housing targets.

Dr Ting had said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had instructed Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers to speed up the projects.

The state government had set a target to build at least 30,000 units in five years.

Osu said several low-cost housing projects would be carried out soon including building 400 units in Tampi-Tampi, Semporna.

He said the public could apply for the houses but priority would be given to locals living in squatter houses.

He also said the federal government had allocated more than RM200 million to build some 8,000 low-cost houses to be rented out to the low income group at a rate ranging between RM100 and RM150.

Asked whether he had identified the Umno candidates to be fielded in the upcoming general election, Osu, who is Sabah Umno and Barisan Nasional chief, said: " We have not thought about it as we don't know when the election will be held."

To another question whether the old timers would be dropped, he said: "I don't know."

The BN has 14 MPs including 10 from Umno of the 20 parliamentary seats in Sabah. The remaining six is held by Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

-- BERNAMA

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