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Suleiman-kampung

A COMMITTEE TO BE SET UP TO DEVELOP KAMPUNG BARU, SAYS SULEIMAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- A committee will be developed to identify a suitable formula for the orderly development of Kampung Baru here, said Deputy Information Minister Datuk Suleiman Mohamed today.

The 25-member committee will comprise representatives from the Prime Minister's Department, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), Economic Planning Unit and the Kampung Baru residents, he said commenting on the call by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah who wanted to see the Malay settlement be redeveloped in an orderly manner.

Sultan Salahuddin had made the call when granting an audience to a 35-member delegation from Kampung Baru at the Istana Negara yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at his office, Suleiman said a government agency, Amanah Raya Berhad, would also be represented in the committee and would act as the intermediary between the government and the residents.

"I will write to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to hold the inaugural meeting of the committee," he said.

Kampung Baru was supposed to be redeveloped in 1990 but the plan was put on hold in 1994 when the residents and the government failed to agree on compensation issues. The residents had demanded RM400 per sq ft while the current market price then was RM250 per sq ft.

Sulaiman said Sultan Salahuddin had also proposed a 200-hectare site near Putrajaya for the development of "Kampung Baru II".

"His Highness will ask the help of the Selangor and federal government to resettle the residents to the new area and at the same time to allow the land owners to sell their land and move to the new place for free," he said.

He said a stumbling block to earlier attempts to develop Kampung Baru was the question of land ownership where as many as 52 people had claim over a lot of about 8,000 sq ft.

"When there are too many owners over a small plot, there is bound to be problem. So High Highness the Sultan has proposed that the government buys the land and develops. This will benefit everyone," he said.

According to him, there are 192 lots with 3,600 names. The cost to develop Kampung Baru is estimated at RM10 billion, excluding RM384 million if each lot is offered at RM2 million.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Kampung Baru Jamek Mosque, Aziz Jamaluddin Tahir, 45, felt a formula should be agreed first before any plan to develop the kampung.

"We want a share in its development as we don't want to lose our identity as the original residents of Kampung Baru," he said.

Another resident, Ahmad Nekmat, 68, said he did not agree with the plan to resettle them.

He said they should be allowed to remain where they were as a respect to the gesture of Sultan Selangor's grandfather who bestowed the land to the original settlers in 1890.

--BERNAMA

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