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Ong-Mechanism

STATES AGREED TO MINISTRY'S PROPOSAL RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF
HIGHLANDS AND HILL SLOPES

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- State governments have agreed to Housing and Local Government Ministry's proposal to standardise mechanism and procedures for the development of highlands and hill slopes, said its minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting today.

He said the Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers expressed their agreement to the proposal in their meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Terengganu Menteri Besar Abdul Hadi Awang and Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat, however, did not attend the meeting.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Quality Day of the Town and Rural Planning Department here, he said the proposal defined highlands as land 150 metres or more above the sea level while hill slopes as land with an incline angle of 25 degrees or more.

In addition, the state governments also agreed to standardise the mechanism for monitoring development projects on the highlands and hill slopes.

As such, he said development projects on highlands and hill slopes must comply with the mechanism set while those of highly risky in nature would need among others the approval of the Town and Rural Planning director-general.

He said the director-general would seek technical advice from experts before giving his approval.

"This is important in avoiding a repeat of undesirable incidents such as the Highlands Tower tragedy and the recent landslide at the Bukit Antarabangsa here," he said.

Ong hoped the standardisation could be implemented as soon as possible since the states had all agreed to it.

Earlier, he congratulated the Town and Rural Planning Department for being awarded the MS ISO 9000 Certification.

--BERNAMA

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