

16 APR 2001

Housing

GOVT WILL CONSIDER VIEWS ON LOW-COST HOUSE PRICES

JASIN, April 16 (Bernama) -- The government is willing to study calls for a review of the prices of low-cost houses, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said today.

He said prices of low-cost houses were determined by a special committee on housing chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"In general, the government fixes the prices of low-cost houses according to categories at the town and rural levels," he told reporters after visiting the Parit Keliling and Bukit Katong new villages here.

He said this when commenting on MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's suggestion that the government review the prices of low-cost houses to make them affordable to the 117,000 squatters and former estate workers.

Samy Vellu said the government should direct developers to sell low-cost units at RM25,000 to this group of people instead of the usual prices of between RM35,000 and RM40,000.

On squatters, Ong said the approach taken to resolve the problems in the Jalan Klang Lama area in Petaling Jaya would also be applied in other places in the country.

He said the squatter problem in the Klang Valley was very pressing and should be tackled first.

During his visits, Ong announced government aid of RM105,000 for Bukit Katong and RM140,000 for Parit Keliling to build public amenities like drains and roads.

-- BERNAMA

SBS YBY