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Samy-House

SAMY WANTS LOW-COST HOUSE SOLD TO SQUATTERS AT RM25,000

SHAH ALAM, April 15 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu today asked the government to fix the price of low-cost houses offered to squatters and former plantation workers at RM25,000.

He said these two groups of people could not afford to buy low-cost houses in urban areas at the price of RM35,000 to RM42,000 quoted by developers.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said he would raise the matter at the next meeting of the recently-formed cabinet committee on squatters under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I see that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is very concerned about the squatter problem and serious about resolving it," he told reporters after opening the Selangor MIC Convention.

He said there were 117,000 squatters in the country, a significant number of them Indians, and they faced serious housing problems.

"In Selangor, there are 35,000 squatters with 17,000 in the Petaling Jaya area alone. PJ is like the squatter capital," he said.

Samy Vellu said he had received many complaints from former KTM workers and retrenched plantation workers in Selangor because they were offered low-cost houses at RM35,000 instead of RM25,000 as promised earlier.

"The estate workers who have lost their jobs cannot afford to pay RM35,000 for a house," he said.

As forex-KTM workers, he said that it was sad that they had to live in temporary longhouses.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ SK