

City Hall on the alert for squatters

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CITY HALL has made adequate effort to ensure that no new squatter colonies are set up, said Mayor Kol. Datuk Mohamad Shaid Mohd Taufek.

He said every time Selangor held enforcement action against squatters in its areas, City Hall enforcement officers would patrol possible areas in the city where the displaced squatters might relocate to.

"We are on the alert and our men are going around regularly.

"They have orders from me to tear down illegal colonies especially if they are foreigners," he said.

Mohamad Shaid, however, urged develop-

ers and contractors who employ foreign workers to ensure their housing needs were looked into.

"The workers must be given housing but if they (the workers) are illegal, the Government has to take appropriate action."

He added that part of the squatter problem was due to the fact that foreign workers who were not given housing by their employers tend to move to squatter houses as it was the cheapest accommodation they could afford.

When asked if it was possible to make it mandatory for developers to provide housing

for workers as part of the building and planning approval, Mohamad Shaid said that would fall under the Human Resources Ministry.

Mohamad Shaid was responding to statements by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on May 30 directing all local governments to fence up unoccupied land or plant trees and shrubs on empty plots in their areas to prevent new squatter colonies from emerging.

In issuing this directive, he said no empty plot in major towns and cities should be left untended as they would be taken up by squatters.