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Affordable homes on the cards for 600 poor families

ALOR STAR, Tues. - More than 600 poor families in Kedah will be offered affordable homes at two pioneer villages to be built under a new rural housing initiative announced in Budget 2003.

To be known as "Kampung Warisan" (Heritage Village), the two settlements will be built under the "well-planned villages" (Kampung Tersusun) scheme.

Costing a total of RM100 million, the two villages will be located at Paya Pahlawan and Changlun in Kubang Pasu district.

Scheduled for completion in August next year, the settlements will offer over 600 houses in the two villages for between RM35,000 and RM40,000 each.

They will be sold to qualified locals on 20-year loan repayment terms.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said the project aims to provide poor farmers and fishermen in the State with cheap but quality housing. He was speaking after the launch of the State-level World Health Day celebration today.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the initiative when tabling the Budget on Friday.

Syed Razak said the Heritage Village programme will be expanded throughout Kubang Pasu if the first two settlements proved successful.

He added that the Federal Government would provide the allocation to build and construct the two villages, while the Kedah Government would provide the required land.