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# Squatters see light at the end of the tunnel

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Some 200 squatters who have been left in the lurch for almost six years may finally have their dreams of owning a medium-cost home fulfilled soon, if Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) keeps its promise.

The squatters, who moved out of their homes in Kampung Pasir Lama, Kampung Kicap and Brickfields in 1997, were promised a RM42,000 medium-cost house each in Bukit Jalil as part of their compensation package.

They had to make way for the KL Linear City (KLLC) Project. However, the financial crisis during the same year forced the project to be abandoned.

The company in charge of the project - KL Linear City Sdn Bhd - could not afford to compensate them.

The squatters are also losing out on the RM300 monthly rental compensation which they are supposed to get until their new homes are ready.

Most of the residents have moved to places like Bangi, Nilai and Rawang where rental is more affordable.

On Wednesday, Seputeh

MP Teresa Kok met with DBKL director-general Datuk Ruslin Hassan and other officials to seek a solution to the long-standing problem.

Ruslin verbally agreed to allow the squatters to purchase homes at a medium-cost housing project near the site of their previous homes.

As for rental compensation, he has agreed to allow the squatters to rent units at DBKL's Taman Wahyu flats in Kepong for RM124 a month until their new homes are completed.

"We have asked DBKL to give each resident a written agreement on this and they are expected to do so in about three weeks," said Kok.

Only 93 of the 200 residents are aware of the latest development and the MP is calling on the rest to come forward so that the list of home applicants can be updated.

The present group of 93 residents is led by Ng See Chong who can be contacted at 03-58910960.

The group submitted a memorandum on the matter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and a copy to his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Tuesday