

PM: Build units for rent

'We can't expect all to be able to own houses'

PENANG: The state Bumiputra Steering Committee has been directed to build more affordable housing units, especially for rent, under its five-year bid to eradicate hardcore poverty within the community by 2009.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said due attention should be given to the building of houses that the people could afford to rent or even own.

"The construction of houses for rent is important because we cannot expect everyone to be able to own houses.

"There are many out there who want to rent houses. The rental rates too should be set at an affordable range," he said after chairing a three-hour committee meeting at Hotel Equatorial Penang yesterday.

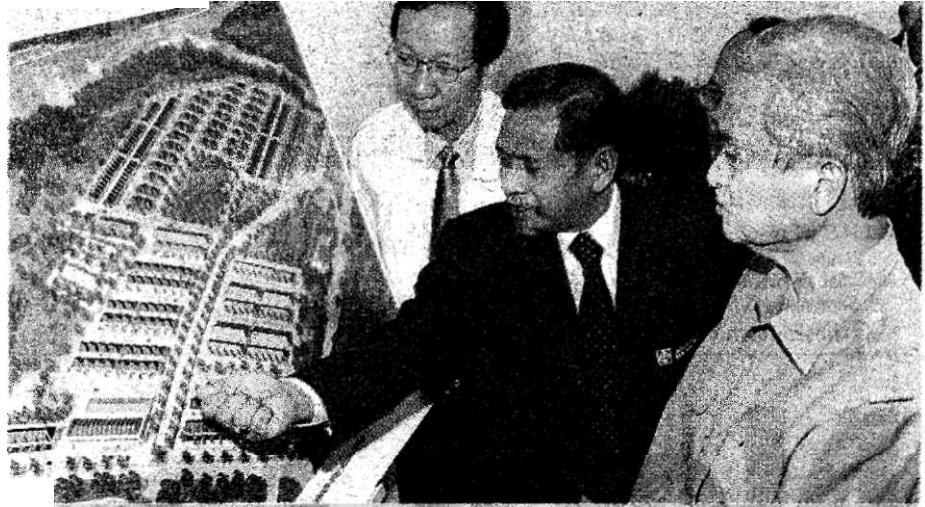
Abdullah later chaired a two-hour state Umno liaison committee meeting at the hotel.

He said the Bumiputra Steering Committee must include efforts towards eradicating hardcore poor bumiputras in all its current and future programmes.

"In all new housing projects, the committee must ensure there are adequate facilities not only for recreation and beautification purposes but also for residents to carry out small-scale businesses.

"There must be affordable business premises available for rental or sale so that the residents can earn a living," he said.

He said the committee should also look at creating new economic resources for the community.



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION: Bank Persatuan Malaysia Bhd chairman Datuk Adnan @ Md Isa Ramli (centre) briefing Abdullah in Penang yesterday on a mixed development project at Seberang Perai Utara as Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon looks on.