

PM: No nod for housing projects if affordable homes not included

THE government will not approve any housing project if developers do not incorporate affordable homes or People's Housing Projects (PPR) in their developments, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he decided on the policy two months ago after observing that the target for affordable home ownership, espe-

cially for the underprivileged, had not been achieved.

"We need to take more effective and drastic actions to tackle this problem. Housing problems in Kuala Lumpur and other big cities have not only hit a critical stage but are also chronic.

"If we want to be a Madani country, there must be a shift (in policy) and (implementation of) strict conditions.

"A few companies have pleaded and some have objected (to this move), but I do not think the government will tolerate it.

"We have a choice.

"We want developments to go on, but we also have to ensure that there are opportunities for poor people to obtain homes, whether they want to buy or rent them," he said in reply to a question from Fong Kui Lun (PH-Buk-

it Bintang) during the ministerial question time.

Fong asked if the government was aware that the conditions to rent Kuala Lumpur City Hall's PPR units were too strict and what the solution was.

To this, Anwar said he would get City Hall to make some changes to the terms and conditions.

He said City Hall received

3,000 applications to rent PPR homes annually, but only 300 units could be offered.

"This is why I stress the policy that all housing projects that are approved must come with affordable homes or PPR units.

"If we were to stick to the 300 units offered by City Hall, the problem raised by Bukit Bintang (member of parliament) will not be resolved."