

**PM Expected To Touch On Affordable Housing In Budget - Chor  
Bernama  
September 12, 2012**

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is expected to also touch on affordable housing in the 2013 Budget, said Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Chor Chee Heung.

He said the prime minister was very concerned about the issue, and would ask about it at every Cabinet meeting.

"I don't know what is he going to say, but he will say something in the budget to show his concern regarding the issue," he told reporters after attending the ministry's Aidilfitri gathering here today.

On a related matter, Chor said the ministry was in the midst of preparing a paper, listing the issues and measures recommended regarding the issue, which would be passed to Cabinet meeting next week as a guide to the government.

He said the ideas were generated through three seminars and roundtable discussion with stakeholders including the Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (Rehda), house buyers associations, architects associations and other professionals.

"For example now those with monthly income of RM3,000-RM7,000, it is difficult for them to buy houses because they are not affordable enough and the most they can go is for houses priced not exceeding RM400,000.

"To buy a house which costs RM400,000 maybe they have to go a great distance from their workplace. Hopefully the government could come in fast enough to help alleviate this situation," he said.

Saying the issue was not only faced by Malaysia but also other countries like China and the United Kingdom as well, Chor said the government's initiatives regarding the issue had started with the 1Malaysia Housing Programme (PR1MA) which was launched two years ago, offering houses priced from RM120,000-RM300,000.

"The ministry also has been helping the federal government to provide public housing to those who earn a household income of a maximum RM2,500 a month.

"Although there is still a lot to be done but so far we have done quite well because every state has public housing with Sabah the most," he said.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=694145>