

**Government Needs To Be More Aggressive In Overcoming Household Income Gap -
Tun Abdullah
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- The government needs to be more aggressive in overcoming the household income gap among the people in the country as the situation, if prolonged, can lead to inequality in domestic economy.

Former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the inequality was prominently visible as more and more houses meant for the high-income group were being built in urban areas.

"Meanwhile, the supply of houses for the low- and middle-income groups are quite limited as compared to the demand," he said when opening a seminar titled 'Household Income Gap in Malaysia: Issues and Challenges' at the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim) here Tuesday.

Abdullah, who is also Ikim chairman, said although the hardcore poverty rate had declined to 0.7 per cent in 2009 from 1.9 per cent in 1999, the income gap among the people remained as one of the main issues to be tackled.

According to the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), 20 per cent of the high-income group received a monthly income of RM9,987 in 2009, as compared to 40 per cent of the low-income group who only received RM 1,440 per month," he said.

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