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Cabinet okays PPR home hire-purchase scheme

THE programme, which will start in five areas, enables low-income earners to own People's Housing Project homes.

→ REPORT ON PAGE 4



Cabinet nod for housing scheme

HIRE PURCHASE: Those earning less than RM2,500 a month can now own PPR house

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REPORT FOR NST

THE cabinet last week approved the implementation of the "hire-purchase" system to help the needy own houses.

Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar said yesterday the system would be implemented in People's Housing Project (PPR) areas nationwide, including Sabah and Sarawak.

For the initial stage, he said, five areas — one each in Kelantan, Negri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpur and two in Selangor — would be opened to hire-purchase offer, and will benefit about 4,000 families.

"The government takes note that many earning RM2,500 a month and below are eligible to buy PPR houses but are not qualified for bank loans and this (hire-purchase scheme) will give them the opportunity to own their houses," he said after handing over the neighbourhood beautification National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS) project and social transformation programme launch at the Sri Bandar flats.

Noh said they were offered the houses through the scheme, priced at RM35,000 per unit for those in the peninsular, much less than the actual price of RM160,000. Prices in Sabah and Sarawak will be RM40,000. These units could not be

sold to other individuals or otherwise had to be resold to the ministry to be offered to other deserving ones, he said.

He said the minimum period of tenancy and the system's mechanism would be announced later.

The offer price for the PPR houses is RM35,000 per unit, which is lower than the actual price of RM160,000.

In an immediate reaction, the Kelantan government thanked the Federal Government for approving the implementation of the hire-purchase system for PPR. A PPR scheme in Gua Musang where 1,000 units are located, are among the five areas opened to the system.

Kelantan Local Government, Housing, Youth and Sports Committee chairman Datuk Ab Fattah Mahmood said the system would help the low-income group, especially those earning RM2,500 a month or below, to own houses.

"We (the state government) are elated to be selected for one of the projects. With the implementation, those without a house, can now own one," he said yesterday.

Apart from the PPR area in Gua Musang, the system would be implemented in Kampung Hassan, Hulu Selangor (300 units), and Lem-

bah Subang 2, Selangor (1,580 units); Ladang Siliu in Negri Sembilan (300 units); and Jinjang (1,000 units) in Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, Real Estate and Housing Developers Association Malaysia welcomed the initiative by the government.

Its deputy president, Datuk Soam Heng Choon, considered the effort to help the needy in acquiring a house as noble.

