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## Zuraida: Ministry to beef up housing laws

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Housing and Local Government Ministry will tighten housing development laws on the quality of construction, especially those involving affordable housing and housing projects for civil servants.

Its minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said the move was necessary following various safety issues raised over the poor condition and quality of houses.

"The action the ministry will take is to blacklist developers who fail to meet specifications, but there are still gaps in the system because there were developers who got back into the business by setting up another company.

"So the law needs to be tightened to ensure they fulfil their promise to adhere to quality standards that have been set," she said yesterday.

Zuraida was commenting on the unsatisfactory development quality involving projects under the ministry such as the Malaysian Civil Servants Housing Project (PPAM) in Bukit Jalil and PPAM Residensi Bayu Andaman in Sentul.

She said the ministry had been monitoring the situation since 2018, but there are still developers who fail to comply with the standards set by the government.

In the last audit report, the issue of poor quality development was raised.

She said the ministry had restructured its internal organisation by placing a deputy secretary-general to monitor the development of projects.

The incumbent would be required to provide a full report to the minister and secretary-general every two weeks for each development.

On the ministry's target to build 100,000 affordable housing units every year, Zuraida said this year's target had to be deferred.

- Bernama