

CHEAPER HOMES

NEW HOUSING POLICY IN DECEMBER

It will make it easier for people to own and finance homes, says minister

ZANARIAH ABD MUTALIB

PUTRAJAYA

zanariah_mutalib@nstp.com.my

A NEW national housing policy will be unveiled in December to make it easier for people to own and finance homes.

Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamarudin said the ministry had held discussions with Bank Negara

Malaysia, Employees Provident Fund, bank representatives and relevant associations to formulate the new policy.

"I'm optimistic that the policy will make it easier for people to own and finance homes. It will simplify legislation and the borrowing process.

"Our goal is to see lower prices for houses and making them more affordable," she said after visiting the Pudu Malaysia Civil Servants Housing Scheme (PPAIM) in Presint 17 here yesterday.

She said she would present a proposal before the cabinet to coordinate and streamline government housing projects soon.

Zuraida said all public housing projects, such as the Malaysia

People's Housing Project, PPAIM, those by Syarikat Perumahan Negara Bhd and the Federal Territory Affordable Homes, would come under her ministry next month.

"At present, these projects are managed by different ministries and agencies," she said.

It was reported last month that a cabinet paper on a suggestion to place all housing agencies under the Housing and Local Government Ministry would be presented to the cabinet this month.

Once the approval is given, the ministry will study the status of all housing agencies and streamline them with the formation of the National Affordable Housing Council as stated in the Pakatan Harapan manifesto.

On whether prices of building materials, such as cement and bricks, would be higher after the implementation of the Sales and

Services Tax, Zuraida said the government's objective was for houses to be more affordable and to see a drop in prices with the reduction in costs.