

## Continue PPR for B40 group, Penang urges govt

By N. TRISHA  
trishang@thestar.com.my

**GEORGE TOWN:** Penang has urged the Federal Government to review its decision to stop the People's Housing Project (PPR) for the B40 group.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the state was recently informed that PPR would now be rebranded as Malaysia's Housing Project, with units costing between RM90,000 and RM300,000.

"PPR will be rebranded and no longer be built. Under the new system, a request for proposal will be called so that the private sector can send in their proposals and offer to develop the land.

"It will not be on a rental basis like PPR. This means that there will no longer be PPR units built for rent like the current system, where each unit is rented out at RM100 with a RM24 maintenance fee each month," he said at a press conference in Komtar yesterday.

Chow said the new programme would severely impact the low income group as even the RM90,000 per unit price is higher than the low-medium cost (LMC) unit price



**Briefing the press:** Chow (left) showing land belonging to the Penang government which was encroached upon in Batu Kawan during a press conference in Komtar. With him are Bukit Tambun assemblyman Goh Choon Aik (centre) and Komtar Assemblyman Teh Lai Heng.

of RM72,500.

"PPR needs to be continued for the sake of the B40 group. We call on the ministry to review this policy," he added.

Earlier, state housing, town, country planning and local government committee chairman Jagdeep Singh Deo said PPR helped the

B40 gradually upgrade themselves to afford a low-cost (LC) or LMC unit.

"It's a social obligation of any government to look out for those who cannot afford housing.

"The Federal Government suggested that if the state cannot afford to build PPR, we

should use private developers with the price set between RM90,000 and RM300,000.

"This is not in line with our usual pricing, which is RM42,000 for an LC unit," he said.

Jagdeep said when the state government imposed 30% LC and LMC units to be built by private developers, the developers subsidised by selling their higher-end units and carrying it out as a social responsibility for the state government.

"Imposing this new programme on the state government is not fair and needs to be reconsidered.

"I always said before the general election last year that we had always been sidelined and only had 999 PPR units statewide compared to other states.

"Nationwide, there are over 80,000 PPR units," he added.

Consumers Association of Penang acting president Mohideen Abdul Kader said the move to scrap PPR was wrong and against basic human rights.

"It is the government's responsibility to provide housing for the B40 group.

"The poor needs to be cared for as we pay taxes and this is the Federal Government's responsibility," he said.