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# Zuraida: Ministry plans to build on Highland Tower site

Project set to benefit B40 group after land and legal issues are settled

PUTRAJAYA: The housing and local government ministry plans to build a housing project for the B40 group at the site of the Highland Towers condominium which collapsed 25 years ago, said its minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

She said the proposed plan could be implemented only after the affected land had been acquired and legal issues, as well as with buyers of the condominium units, had been resolved.

"The first meeting of the Committee on Redevelopment of Highland Towers will be held at the ministry tomorrow (today) and will be chaired by chief secretary Datuk Mohammad Mantek," she told a weekly media conference at her office here yesterday.

Besides the housing and local government ministry and its agen-

cies, she said the committee would also have representatives from the finance ministry, Selangor government, economic affairs ministry, works ministry, environment and natural resources ministry, land and mines director-general, mineral and geoscience department, drainage and irrigation department and the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council.

According to Zuraida, the site of the Highland Towers condominium is a piece of prime land in Kuala Lumpur and should be fully utilised, instead of leaving it idle.

On Dec 11, 1993, one of the three blocks of the Highland Towers condominium in Taman Hillview, Ulu Klang, collapsed, killing 48 people.

Asked about the risk of developing a housing project at the Highland Towers site as it is a hill

Zuraida: The development will be carried out according to the required specification. Photo by Low Yen Yeing/EdgeProp.my

slope, Zuraida said the development would be carried out according to the required specification.

On another development, she said, the ministry would review the existing policy on the duration for the government to take over abandoned housing projects in the country.

"If the time period stated in the existing policy is too long, there might be a need to shorten it," she said, adding that they were currently 257 abandoned projects, with the highest number in Selangor and most of them were by the private sector. — *Bernama*

