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## 'National Housing Policy 2.0 to be ready by year end'

SEPANG: The housing and local government ministry is now drafting the National Housing Policy 2.0, scheduled to be ready by the end of the year, said Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

She said her ministry will also look into the suggestion by Rehda Institute for the ceiling price of affordable homes in Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley to be set at RM500,000, and for the government to build affordable housing while the private sector will focus on delivering market-driven properties without price control and quota.

The proposal was highlighted at the launch of Rehda Institute's inaugural Affordable Housing Report, which was produced to address the

structural problems in developing such properties, on Saturday.

"The public sector competing with the private sector is not healthy where examples such as PR1MA [1Malaysia People's Housing] homes are competing with private sector in some locations.

"It is an unlevel playing field with different models, cost structure between public and private sectors yet they have similar pricing and target market. The public sector's costs will be lower due to cheaper land costs, exemptions, different funding sources and licensing factors," the report noted.

At the same time, the housing and local government ministry will review applications for affordable homes by bumiputera that were

rejected by financial institutions.

The move, Zuraida said, was to ensure they were already homeowners and to avoid a glut of unsold affordable homes under the bumiputera quota.

"The ministry will meet the Employees Provident Fund and other financial institutions to find a solution to the problem," she told reporters after opening a briefing on preventing child sexual abuse in Tanjung Sepat yesterday.

"The ministry is committed to helping the bumiputera to become homeowners," she added.

She was responding to a suggestion by Rehda for unsold bumiputera quota affordable homes to be released to the open market.

— *Bernama*