

## news without borders

# PJ folk to get discounts on land premiums to extend leases

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**SHAH ALAM:** The Selangor government will offer land owners in Petaling Jaya discounts on land premiums to encourage them to extend their leases.

Mentri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim said a task force led by state secretary Datuk Ramli Mahmud will be set up to study the amount of discount to be offered and the areas where they will be applicable.

The task force is expected to take a month to decide on these matters.

"The task force will also help the administration speed up the extension of the leases," Khalid told reporters after the state exco meeting yesterday.

"Petaling Jaya was chosen because most of the properties

in the area have leases of less than 20 year left," he said.

He said the leases offered by the government during the 1950s and 1960s to landowners in Petaling Jaya were for 99 years but half of the properties have about 18 to 19 years left before the leases expire.

Khalid said the extended leases will help the rakyat as the property value will increase.

"We want to help people realise the market value of the land," he said.

He said Petaling Jaya is a case study and the discounts might be applicable to other areas if found to be feasible.

On another matter, Khalid said another task force will be set up to study the feasibility of splitting Klang Municipal Council (MPK) into two local government authorities to enhance

efficiency and effectiveness in administration.

"MPK needs delineation because Klang's population is more than one million which is too big to be handled by the current council."

Khalid said the task force is expected to conclude the study in three months after which a decision on whether to divide MPK will be made.

Also present at the press conference was state executive councillor for tourism, consumer affairs and environment Elizabeth Wong, who said the state will hold a Chinese New Year Open House at the FGS Dong Zen in Jenjarom, Kuala Langat on Feb 20.

She also said the state will hold a Cap Goh Meh Open House on Feb 27 at ICT area in Section 7, Shah Alam.