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KOTA KINABALU: Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB) will be building 1,000 units more of Rumah Mesra Rakyat in Sabah.

This is in response to Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman's request to help more Sabahans own houses, SPNB Holding Group chairman Datuk Abd Latiff Ahmad said.

Speaking to the media after a courtesy call on Musa at his official residence, Sri Gaya yesterday, Abd Latiff said so far SPNB had built 1,000 such units in Sabah.

According to him during the courtesy call on Musa, the latter had requested SPNB to do more for Sabahans by building more houses under its 'Rumah Mampu Milik (Affordable Home)' and 'Rumah Mampu Bayar' (Affordable to Pay) schemes.

"SPNB agreed but in order to do so we need the government's assistance, especially in the matter of issuing the land title to those who applied for the houses," he said, adding that one of the conditions for the applicants was

that the land they wanted to build the houses on had titles.

"To qualify for the Rumah Mampu Bayar, applicants must have their own lands and the lands must be titled. So in cases where the land is NCR, the state government can use its purview to expedite the issuing of the land title and also to provide land to those who do not have land," he said.

He suggested that lots in kampungs can be considered to be given to these people as they only need 4,000 square feet to build a house.

"The houses are for those who are from the informal sector and these are those who are employed but do not receive pay slips. When they apply for the scheme, it means that they are not required to get loan from banks but through SPNB Dana, our subsidiary.

"To qualify, other than the land title, they will be required to make a statutory declaration that their family monthly income is less than RM3,000, and have not been declared bankrupt. They

also need to get a supporting letter from the ketua kampung (village chief), community leader and an elected representative from the ruling government," he said.

Each of the houses will be built at a cost of RM77,000 and the federal government will provide a RM20,000 subsidy to all successful applicants.

"That means the applicant will only need to pay RM57,000. The repayment scheme is that they pay RM290 a month for 25 years," he said adding that in Sabah, the repayment rate was good at 86 per cent.

Abd Latiff also said SPNB was interested to build more affordable homes in Sabah and expressed hope that the state government could assist by providing the land at a lower price which in turn could bring down the price of the completed units.

Also present at the courtesy call were SPNB Sabah chief Reggie Sua @ Mohd Haffiz S.A, Rumah Mesra Rakyat CEO Wan Azlan Wan AB Rahman and SPNB Aspirasi Sdn Bhd chairman Ahri Hashim.

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Abd Latiff (left) presenting Musa with a memento. Also present are Reggie (second left), Azlan (left) and Ahri (second right)