





**Deserted:** Empty units with broken doors and missing windows in PPR Cempaka in Pantai Dalam (left) and PPR Intan Baiduri (right). Some quarters think that DBKL should fix it up and give it to the hardcore poor.

## DBKL urged to act on PPR tenants who default

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Chandrakuman pointed out that schemes like RUMAWIP (Federal Territories Affordable Housing) and PR1MA (1Malaysia People's Housing Scheme) were aimed at providing affordable housing to middle-income group, not the urban poor.

"On paper it is a good plan but how many can afford to buy them?"

"The number of residents who took up the government's offer to buy their PPR units 10 years ago was far from encouraging, in fact it was worrying.

"If most can't afford a RM35,000 unit, how are they going to buy a RM300,000 unit?" Chandrakuman pointed out.

### Some solutions

Ramanujam and Saravanan suggested several short-term options to resolve the problem.

They pointed out many PPR units in Kuala Lumpur are uninhabitable.

In fact, hundreds of units at PPR Batu Muda in Kepong, PPR Pantai Ria in Lembah Pantai, PPR Kampung Muhibbah in Puchong and PPR Intan Baiduri have been left vacant.

They said DBKL should repair the units and make them habitable.

They also pointed out that while



**Longing for a home to call their own:** Murugan (right) and his family are currently renting a unit in PPR Kg Muhibbah for RM350. They have been on the waiting list since 2008.

thousands of poverty-stricken city folk are on the waiting list, tens of thousands have defaulted on their rent.

According to the latest statistics, PPR residents owe DBKL a whopping RM46.5mil in unpaid rent.

More than 15,000 residents owe at least two months of unpaid rent. About 546 owe more than RM10,000.

This state of affairs has led to

some questioning DBKL's rationale of "pampering" or protecting defaulters.

While DBKL is "prevented" from evicting tenants who default on their rent, some quarters want it to lock out non-genuine cases who are abusing the system.

"I am not saying that DBKL should kick out all tenants who default but I know of those who refuse to pay rent because they

feel they are entitled to the units as former squatters who were relocated.

"There are also those who have sub-let their units to third parties and charge up to five times more.

"Political will is needed to stop the rot and bring credibility back into a system that was originally intended to help the city's poorest residents have a roof over their heads," pointed out Ramanujam.

### SOUNDBITES

We want to hear from you about the issues we have highlighted. Please send your views to us by 3pm.

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### Racing through KL

Kuala Lumpur City Hall has approved for the Kuala Lumpur City Grand Prix to make its debut in August with a challenging 3.2km street circuit.

### > Insensitive

Isn't this initiative a bit insensitive at the moment? Unwise sir, unwise! - M Haidir Hashim

### > Giving others 'ideas'

There will surely be a lot of illegal racing on this circuit in the wee hours of the morning once this event is over. - Patrick Thavarajah

### > Unnecessary

Just use the Sepang track! - Mohd Mike

### Good move

I welcome any legal racing track in the country. - Cilla

### Having no room to grow

Flower traders in Brickfields unhappy over DBKL's plan to relocate them

### > Good idea

Shifting the traders to the complex would be a good idea as this would ease congestion in the area. It would also be convenient for customers and traders. The traders should not protest against such petty issues and instead cooperate and promote their businesses rather than complain. - Selvaraju Perumal

### > Less congested

Good idea - Less traffic and the shop verandah will look better. - Suresh Rama Nathan

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