



STAR  
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**SERIOUS DISCUSSION:**  
(From left) Abu Seman, Ruslin and ministry parliamentary Territories secretary Yew Teong Look taking a closer look at the project blueprints yesterday.

# Landslide-hit residents 'homeless'

By **CHOW HOW BAN** and **CHANG KIT TI**  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The May 31 landslide that took four lives in Kampung Pasir has left 141 affected villagers and a group of residents from nearby Taman Zooview clueless as to where to find permanent shelter now.

The villagers, who were temporarily housed at a *surau* after the incident, were told by the local village committee to leave the place by 4.30pm yesterday.

Marwazi Sareh, 47, said they were now in a dilemma.

"We asked to extend our stay at the *surau* or be placed at a temporary shelter elsewhere but there was no reply from

the authorities," he said.

The 14 affected families from Taman Zooview, who have been living in their temporary quarters at the Flamingo Hotel in Ampang, will also be "homeless" after tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Federal Territories Ministry will set up a committee to review all hill slope development in the wake of recent landslide incidents.

Deputy Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop said the committee, comprising experts from the Public Works Department, Geo-Science department, Ikram (Public Works Institute) and other authorities, would look at all building plans submitted to City Hall this year.

The local authority and ministry were also preparing an initial report on the Bukit Mas Melawati apartment project on a hillslope near Taman Melawati, not far from Kampung Pasir.

On Sunday, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique instructed mayor Datuk Ruslin Hasan to prepare a report after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi urged the authorities to re-look approvals for the project.

Ruslin said when the project, consisting of several blocks of apartments, was approved in 1990, guidelines on prohibiting development on slopes that had a gradient of more than 35 degrees had yet to be introduced by the Cabinet.

# EIA to be a must for 20ha projects

By **MAZWIN NIK ANIS**  
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**PUTRAJAYA:** The Government wants to make it compulsory for developers with a development area of 20ha and more to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

Developers with less than 20ha but have several parcels of land nearby for future projects have to submit a macro EIA report.

Currently, only developers with projects spanning more than 50ha are

required to carry out an EIA.

Natural Resources and Environment Ministry secretary-general Datuk Suboh Mohd Yassin said the Environmental Quality Act 1974 was in the process of being amended to make way for the two new regulations.

"The Attorney-General's Chambers is looking into this. We are targeting for the law to be enforced this year to get more developers to be responsible and aware of how their project can affect the environment," he said after attending his ministry's excellence awards presen-

tation yesterday.

Suboh said developers must realise the importance of the EIA not only for the safety of the environment but also that of their projects.

He said guidelines and rules were already in place for developers to follow, especially when carrying out hillside and highland development.

Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid called on the staff to give priority to and act fast on public complaints.

He warned them not to "sweep problems under the carpet."