



PROVIDING QUALITY HOUSING AND URBAN SERVICES

21

I. INTRODUCTION

21.01 The implementation of housing development programmes and provision of urban services during the Eighth Plan period were aimed at improving the quality of life and well-being of the population. The overall performance of housing programmes undertaken by the public and private sectors was encouraging, surpassing the Plan target. Emphasis was given towards providing affordable and quality houses, particularly for the low-income group with better urban services and a healthy living environment.

21.02 During the Ninth Plan period, continuous efforts will be undertaken to ensure that Malaysians of all income levels will have access to adequate, quality and affordable homes, particularly the low-income group. In this regard, the private sector will be encouraged to build more low- and low-medium-cost houses in their mixed-development projects while the public sector will concentrate on building low-cost houses as well as houses for public sector employees, the disadvantaged and the poor in urban and rural areas. To enhance the quality of life of the urban population, the provision of more systematic and well organised urban services programmes will emphasise on sustainable development, promoting greater community participation and social integration of the population.

II. PROGRESS, 2001-2005

21.03 The main objective of the housing programmes during the Eighth Plan period was in line with the housing policy of providing adequate, quality and affordable houses to all Malaysians. The planning and implementation of housing development programmes were based on the human settlement concept, which included the provision of public amenities such as community halls, playgrounds for children, clinics, shophouses and open spaces. While public sector housing programmes continued to focus on providing low-cost houses for the low-income group and towards the elimination of squatters in urban areas, the

private sector continued to build houses to meet the overall market demand. To enhance the quality of life and socioeconomic status of the urban population, efforts were undertaken to improve the quality of urban services as well as provide better infrastructure and public amenities.

Housing

21.04 The performance of housing development programmes was encouraging with the number of houses constructed surpassing the Plan target. A total of 844,043 units was completed, as shown in *Table 21-1*. Of the total, 77.6 per cent was constructed by the private sector while the remaining by the public sector.

21.05 As part of the Government's efforts to increase the construction of low- and low-medium-cost houses, the *Syarikat Perumahan Negara Malaysia Berhad* (SPNB) undertook housing development projects to cater for the housing needs of the population. During the Plan period, SPNB implemented the *Program Perumahan Mampu Milik*, *Program Perumahan Mesra Rakyat* and housing projects for military personnel. In addition, SPNB undertook the rehabilitation of selected abandoned housing projects including those of the private sector as identified by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHLG).

21.06 The Housing Development Act, (Control and Licensing) 1966 was amended in 2002 to expand the scope of enforcement by MHLG to include projects implemented by government agencies and cooperatives, provision for quality control and timely completion of housing projects as well as the establishment of the Tribunal for Homebuyer Claims. The Tribunal, which handled claims below RM25,000, registered a total of 10,074 claims whereby 8,569 cases were resolved during the Plan period.

Low-cost Housing

21.07 The overall performance of houses built under the low-cost housing category was encouraging with 200,513 units completed or 86.4 per cent of the Plan target. Of this total, 103,219 units or 51.5 per cent was constructed by the public sector including state economic development corporations (SEDCs). To ensure an adequate supply of low-cost houses for the low-income group, any mixed-development projects undertaken by private developers, continued to be guided by the 30 per cent low-cost housing policy requirement. However, taking into account the situational demand for low-cost houses as well as addressing the issue of unsold units, some state governments made adjustments to the policy.

TABLE 21-1

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS, 2001-2005

Programme	Housing for the Poor		Low-Cost		Low Medium-Cost		Medium-Cost		High-Cost		Total	
	Target (units)	Achieved (units)	Target (units)	% of Target	Target (units)	Achieved (units)	Target (units)	% of Target	Target (units)	Achieved (units)	Target (units)	% of Target
Public Sector	16,000	10,016	192,000	53.8	37,300	22,826	46,700	61.2	20,000	22,510	312,000	60.5
Low-cost Housing	-	-	175,000	46.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	175,000	46.3
Housing for the hardcore poor (PPRT)	15,000	9,536 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	63.6
Sites and Services	1,000	480	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	48.0
Housing by Commercial Agencies	-	-	15,000	109.2	10,000	15,442	16,000	154.4	15,000	5,753	56,000	84.8
Housing by Land Schemes	-	-	2,000	286.3	1,000	695	-	69.5	-	-	3,000	214.0
Institutional Quarters and Staff Accommodation	-	-	-	-	26,300	6,689	30,700	25.4	5,000	16,757	62,000	70.4
Private Sector	-	-	40,000	243.2	94,000	61,084	64,000	65.0	105,000	274,973	303,000	216.3
Private Developers	-	-	39,000	241.1	90,000	53,607	60,000	59.6	100,000	269,320	289,000	218.8
Cooperative Societies	-	-	1,000	326.5	4,000	7,477	4,000	186.9	5,000	5,653	14,000	165.4
Total	16,000	10,016	232,000	86.4	131,300	83,910	110,700	63.9	125,000	297,483	615,000	137.2

Source: Ministry of Housing and Local Government

Notes: ¹ Excluding 13,037 units rehabilitated houses.

21.08 Under the Public Low-cost Housing Programme (PLHP) for the low-income group, a total of 27,006 low-cost houses was constructed involving 70 projects during the Plan period. These projects were implemented by state governments through loans provided by the Federal Government and mainly concentrated in small towns and sub-urban areas. These houses were sold to eligible buyers registered under the computerised open registration system administered by the respective state governments. For cities and larger towns, the *Program Perumahan Rakyat Bersepadu* (PPRB) was implemented for the resettlement of squatters. Under this programme, 37,241 low-cost houses were completed and rented out to those eligible. Out of this total, 24,654 units were built in Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur while 12,587 units in other major towns throughout the country.

Low-medium-cost Housing

21.09 In the low-medium-cost housing category, a total of 83,910 units was completed, achieving 63.9 per cent of the Plan target. Of this total, the private sector constructed 61,084 units or 72.8 per cent. The overall performance in this category was better than the 20.7 per cent of the target achieved during the previous Plan period. This achievement showed that private developers responded positively to the increasing demand for houses in this category, thus reducing the demand pressure for low-cost houses. The SPNB constructed a total of 3,898 houses under the *Program Perumahan Mampu Milik*.

Medium- and High-cost Housing

21.10 The total number of medium- and high-cost houses constructed by the private sector during the Plan period far exceeded its target reflecting a continuous demand for houses in this category. In this respect, a total of 222,023 units of medium-cost and 274,973 units of high-cost houses were constructed. The public sector constructed 30,098 medium-cost houses and 22,510 high-cost houses, which met 64.4 per cent and 112.6 per cent of the Plan target, respectively. These houses were mainly built by corporations such as SEDCs and SPNB for sale to the general public as well as by government agencies for quarters.

Housing Development in the Rural Areas

21.11 Various programmes continued to be implemented in the rural areas such as the *Program Perumahan Rakyat Miskin Tegar* (PPRT) for the hardcore poor and *Program Pembangunan Masyarakat Setempat* (PPMS). These programmes were part of efforts to eradicate poverty among the rural poor as well as to provide them with decent houses with basic amenities. During the Plan period, 9,536 houses for the hardcore poor were newly constructed while 13,037 houses were rehabilitated. In efforts to develop new settlement areas

equipped with basic infrastructure and social amenities, the *Penyatuan Semula Kampung*, *Pusat Pertumbuhan Desa* and *Pembangunan Bersepadu Desa Terpencil* programmes were implemented in 40 villages throughout the country benefiting about 6,000 families.

Housing for Public Sector Employees

21.12 During the Plan period, 43,620 housing units or 70.4 per cent of the Plan target were constructed as quarters for public sector employees, particularly for those serving in the police, armed forces, fire and rescue services, customs and immigration departments as well as those serving in Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya. Out of this total, 9,286 units were constructed in Putrajaya. Quarters were also provided for other employees such as teachers and health personnel serving in rural and remote areas or places without adequate suitable accommodation facilities.

Urban Services

Services in the Local Authorities

21.13 Local authorities undertook various obligatory and discretionary activities in providing services to the urban population. These included the provision of solid waste management services as well as the construction and upgrading of public amenities such as community halls, markets, business premises and recreational facilities.

21.14 *Solid Waste Management.* During the Plan period, the collection and disposal of municipal solid waste was carried out by concession companies, operators or the respective local authorities. To reduce wastes generated by the general public, greater awareness among the public on the importance of recycling through extensive recycling campaigns and activities were carried out by 97 local authorities in collaboration with the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In this regard, various recycling programmes were undertaken, which included public awareness campaigns and the setting up of recycling centres, particularly in residential areas as well as shopping centres.

21.15 Measures were undertaken to enable local governments to adopt systematic practices in the management of solid waste as well as improving the level of cleanliness. In this regard, modern facilities which included a transfer station, a thermal treatment plant and sanitary landfills were provided to local authorities as shown in *Table 21-2*. Financial assistance was also provided to local authorities, particularly the district councils to upgrade waste disposal facilities, undertake waste recycling programmes and the purchase of equipment for waste management. In this regard, a total of RM302 million was disbursed to various local authorities.

TABLE 21-2

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, 2001-2005

<i>Facilities/Projects</i>	<i>Handling Capacity (tonnes per day)</i>
Transfer station at Taman Beringin, Kuala Lumpur	1,700
Thermal oxidation plant at Labuan	40
First cell of the Seelong Sanitary Landfill, Johor Bahru, Johor	1,200
Advanced cell of the Bukit Tagar Sanitary Landfill, Hulu Selangor	1,500

Source: Economic Planning Unit

21.16 To ensure integrated and sustainable solid waste management, the National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management (NSPSWM) was adopted in 2005. The NSPSWM outlined various strategies including the adoption of sustainable waste management through reduction, reuse and recycling as well as the use of appropriate technologies, facilities, equipment and service standards. To enhance the delivery system, the NSPSWM recommended the drawing up of action plans with the participation of the local community, private sector and NGOs.

21.17 *Landscaping and Recreational Programme.* In line with the national aspiration to implement a garden city concept in urban centres, various landscaping and recreational projects were implemented by local authorities with the support and assistance from the National Landscape Department. In this regard, the Department provided assistance to local authorities and state governments in planning for green lungs, designing recreational and public parks as well as greening and landscaping of rivers, roads and amenities. A total of 30 landscape master plans was developed, which provided guidelines for the proper development of landscape focusing on a clean, beautiful and safe environment while ensuring balance between physical development and the conservation of natural resources. To meet the increasing demand for better recreational areas and open spaces, 17 new public parks were built and 256 existing parks upgraded. In addition, the national tree planting campaign continued to be implemented during the Plan period aimed at promoting awareness among the public on the importance of trees in our living environment.

21.18 *Upgrading Status of Local Authorities.* Several local authorities undertook structural and administrative changes in their organisations due to the rapid pace of urbanisation as well as to meet the increasing demands of a more educated and knowledgeable urban population. During the Plan period, three municipal councils were conferred city status, namely the Kota Setar Municipal

Council in Kedah, *Majlis Perbandaran Melaka Bandar Bersejarah* in Melaka and Miri Municipal Council in Sarawak. In addition, 16 district councils were upgraded to municipal councils, which provided for wider area of coverage, better development planning and greater financial resources to ensure proper development as well as quality delivery of services.

21.19 *Development of Information and Communications Technology.* During the Plan period, the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in the administration and management of local authorities was further enhanced to increase their capacity and efficiency. In the implementation of the Smart Local Government Governance Agenda (SLGGA), efforts were undertaken to equip local authorities with computer equipment and relevant software. Web sites for 52 local authorities were developed to enable the implementation of the e-Local Authority application involving various systems such as the revenue, licensing, reporting, accounting, complaint and the e-Submission system.

21.20 *Local Agenda 21.* Community participation in activities conducted by local authorities increased through the Local Agenda 21 programme, which was launched in 2000. The programme, which focused on enhancing understanding and cooperation between the community, local authorities and the private sector, was implemented in 47 local authorities during the Plan period. Out of this total, 16 launched their comprehensive plan of action pertaining to sustainable development covering social, economic and environmental aspects.

21.21 *Facilities and Infrastructure.* Local authorities continued to encourage the low-income group to participate in small businesses by providing facilities such as wet markets, hawker centres and commercial premises which were rented to those eligible. Works undertaken to improve infrastructural facilities included the repairing and upgrading of roads, upgrading of the public transport system to avoid traffic congestion and provision of better drainage system to avoid flash floods. To ensure safety of the urban communities, the Safe City concept was introduced in 2004. Under this concept, local authorities were encouraged to improve street lightings, pedestrian walks and pathways as well as cooperate with the police to promote, develop and implement initiatives to prevent crimes in urban areas.

Fire and Rescue Services

21.22 Measures continued to be undertaken to provide quality and professional fire and rescue services equivalent to international practices and standards. In this regard, the Fire and Rescue Department undertook various efforts to equip and upgrade its personnel with proper equipment and skills, enhance its communications system as well as promote public awareness on fire safety. During the Plan period, the Department undertook 195,070 fire and rescue

efforts which resulted in the saving of an estimated RM47.7 billion worth of assets and materials.

21.23 To ensure efficient delivery of fire and rescue services, 73 new fire stations were constructed at strategic locations, particularly in housing, commercial and industrial areas. In addition, five new state headquarters complexes and two regional workshops were built to strengthen and upgrade these services. The efficiency of fire and rescue services were further enhanced with the procurement of an additional 146 fire fighting vehicles, 20 support vehicles and 595 utility vehicles. These included sophisticated and specialised vehicles for specialised and high risk operations including fire incidents at high rise buildings, maritime and the handling of hazardous materials. An additional two helicopters and five boats were purchased during the Plan period for surveillance and other rescue operations.

III. PROSPECTS, 2006 -2010

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21.24 During the Ninth Plan period, the development of the housing sector will continue to focus on the provision of adequate, affordable and quality houses for all Malaysians. Towards this end, the private sector will undertake the lead role while the public sector will provide the necessary support and regulatory measures to ensure efficiency. To meet the needs of the low-income group, emphasis will continue to be given to the development of low- and low-medium cost houses at suitable locations provided with adequate public amenities. To improve the quality of life of the urban population, the provision of urban services will focus on expanding the scope of coverage of the local authorities, creating a safe living environment, increasing people participation as well as ensuring sustainable urban planning and development.

21.25 The strategic thrusts of housing development and urban services during the Plan period will be as follows:

- ❑ *providing adequate, affordable and quality houses, particularly to meet the needs of the low-income group, with greater emphasis on appropriate locations and conducive living environment;*
- ❑ *reviewing laws and regulations to ensure proper development of the housing sector;*
- ❑ *encouraging private sector participation in the construction of low- and low-medium-cost houses;*
- ❑ *improving the efficiency and capability of local authorities;*
- ❑ *ensuring provision of quality urban services; and*
- ❑ *encouraging greater community participation in urban development.*

Housing

21.26 During the Plan period, requirement for new houses is expected to be about 709,400 units, of which 19.2 per cent will be in Selangor followed by Johor at 12.9 per cent, Sarawak 9.4 per cent and Perak 8.2 per cent, as shown in *Table 21-3*. Of the total requirement, 92.8 per cent will be for new houses while 7.2 per cent for replacement. The private sector is expected to supply 72.1 per

TABLE 21-3
HOUSING REQUIREMENTS BY STATE, 2006-2010
(Units)

State	New Requirements	Replacements	Total Needs
Johor	86,100	5,400	91,500
Kedah	51,800	5,000	56,800
Kelantan	40,600	5,600	46,200
Melaka	19,100	1,700	20,800
Negeri Sembilan	23,000	3,700	26,700
Pahang	41,100	3,300	44,400
Perak	48,600	9,600	58,200
Perlis	6,100	500	6,600
Pulau Pinang	30,900	1,900	32,800
Sabah	50,800	5,300	56,100
Sarawak	62,400	4,600	67,000
Selangor ¹	135,200	800	136,000
Terengganu	30,000	2,800	32,800
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur	31,800	600	32,400
Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan	1,000	100	1,100
Total	658,500	50,900	709,400
%	92.8	7.2	100.0

Source: Ministry of Housing and Local Government

Notes: ¹ Includes Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya.

cent of the total requirement, as shown in *Table 21-4*. In terms of the housing category, 38.2 per cent will be a combination of low- and low-medium-cost houses as well as houses for the poor while 61.8 per cent in the category of medium- and high-cost houses.

21.27 During the Plan period, the Government will continue to construct low-cost houses under the *Program Perumahan Rakyat (PPR)* to ensure adequate houses for the low-income group. In this regard, efforts will be undertaken to expedite the completion of on-going projects involving 24,757 units of houses. In addition, 43,800 units of houses for rental as well as for sale will be constructed to meet the expected increase in demand from the low-income group. Towards

TABLE 21-4

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TARGETS, 2006-2010

Programme	Number of Units					Total	
	Housing for the Poor	Low-Cost	Low Medium-Cost	Medium-Cost	High-Cost	Number of Units	% of Total
Public Sector	20,000	85,000	37,005	27,100	28,700	197,805	27.9
Low-cost Housing	-	67,000	-	-	-	67,000	9.5
Housing for the hardcore poor (PPRT)	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	2.8
Housing by Commercial Agencies	-	13,500	31,005	8,200	4,700	57,405	8.1
Housing by Land Schemes	-	4,500	500	-	-	5,000	0.7
Institutional Quarters Staff Accommodation	-	-	5,500	18,900	24,000	48,400	6.8
Private Sector	-	80,400	48,500	183,600	199,095	511,595	72.1
Private Developers	-	77,700	42,400	178,000	194,495	492,595	69.4
Cooperative Societies	-	2,700	6,100	5,600	4,600	19,000	2.7
Total	20,000	165,400	85,505	210,700	227,795	709,400	100.0
%	2.8	23.3	12.1	29.7	32.1	100.0	

Source: Ministry of Housing and Local Government

this end, the National Housing Department will work closely with state governments to ensure that these houses are built in suitable locations and provided with adequate public amenities.

21.28 To complement efforts by the Government, the SPNB will build about 26,120 units of low- and low-medium-cost houses in the urban and sub-urban areas. A total of 3,050 units of low-cost houses will be constructed in the rural areas under the *Program Perumahan Mesra Rakyat*. SPNB will also rehabilitate about 11,000 units of houses from various abandoned projects throughout the country as well as 166 houses in Kedah and 900 houses in Pulau Pinang for the resettlement of the *tsunami* victims.

21.29 Greater private sector involvement in the construction of low-cost houses will be encouraged to ensure adequate supply of affordable houses to meet the needs of the low-income group. To facilitate this, current housing policies and strategies as well as legislation will be reviewed. These will include the requirement for private housing developers to surrender to the Government the land allocated for low-cost houses in their mixed-development project in the event that the

project fails. During the Plan period, the private sector is targeted to construct a total of 80,400 low-cost houses.

21.30 To encourage housing developers to increase the supply of low-medium-cost housing component in their mixed-development projects, the 30 per cent quota requirement for the low-cost houses will be reviewed, particularly in areas where there is poor demand for low-cost houses. Guidelines detailing the specification, designs as well as prices for the low-medium-cost houses will be provided. This will assist housing developers in preparing their development plans, expediting the approval process imposed by the authorities as well as to ensure that these houses fulfil the required standards and remain affordable to the target group. A total of 48,500 low-medium-cost houses is targeted to be built by the private sector.

21.31 Measures will be undertaken to further improve the registration and distribution system for low-cost houses to ensure proper distribution and prevent genuine target groups from being denied the opportunity to buy these houses. Information in the database will be regularly updated and the criteria for selection of eligible buyers will be revised and standardised for all states. Apart from income level, priority will be given to the less advantaged groups such as single mothers, families with many dependents and those with handicapped members. The existing centralised database system at the MHLG will be upgraded and integrated with the database administered by state governments to facilitate the selection and distribution of low-cost houses in a more systematic and transparent manner.

21.32 Measures will be undertaken to ensure that all high rise apartments, particularly the low- and low-medium-cost categories are properly maintained. In this regard, the National Housing Department, in collaboration with the respective local authorities, will conduct activities aimed at increasing awareness among residents on their responsibility for the cleanliness and maintenance of their premises. Efforts will be made to encourage residents to appoint management companies in the provision of maintenance and security services.

21.33 *Housing Development in the Rural Areas.* Efforts will continue to be undertaken to provide houses with basic amenities for the rural population. In this regard, the implementation of housing programmes for the low-income group and the hardcore poor in the rural areas will be reviewed, particularly to ensure its effectiveness. An allocation of RM233.1 million will be provided for the construction of houses for the hardcore poor, which include the rehabilitation of about 14,000 dilapidated houses. In addition, development projects under the *Penyatuan Semula Kampung* and *Pembangunan Bersepadu Desa Terpencil* programmes will be intensified.

21.34 *Housing for Public Sector Employees.* The Government will continue to provide housing for public sector employees, particularly those in the essential services and in the areas that lack suitable accommodation facilities. During the Plan period, a total of 48,400 institutional quarters and staff accommodation units will be constructed particularly for uniformed personnel, medical services and teachers throughout the country including Putrajaya. These houses will be provided in major towns, border areas as well as remote areas in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

21.35 *Housing for Estate and Industrial Workers.* The Government will ensure that estate owners and employers provide adequate housing or accommodation and facilities for their workers as provided by the Workers Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act, 1990. Employers in the industrial sector will also be encouraged to provide proper accommodation and facilities for their workers. Regular inspection and monitoring will be conducted by the relevant agencies to ensure that estate owners and industrial employers adhere to the requirement.

21.36 *Housing Technology, Research and Development.* Continuous efforts will be undertaken to promote research and development (R&D) in activities related to the construction industry which include housing. During the Plan period, efforts will be enhanced to encourage the use of alternative construction material and technology under the Industrialised Building System (IBS) and designs based on the modular coordination concept in housing construction. The use of this technology will result in less labour, increased productivity and enhanced quality of houses while creating a safer and cleaner working environment.

21.37 During the Plan period, the implementation of IBS will be guided by a roadmap of implementation strategies. Among others, the strategies will include the use of IBS components in the construction of affordable homes and in Government building projects and enforcement on the use of modular coordination concept through Uniformed Building Bylaws by the local authorities. The Government will provide incentives such as *green-lane* building plan approval and exemption of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) levy for users of standard plans which are designed based on modular coordination and standard building components. In addition, focus will also be given to R&D related to sustainable building services and cleaner technology in the construction industry based on the 3Rs concept (reduce, reuse and recycle) such as wastewater recycling and energy efficiency.

Urban Services

Services in the Local Authorities

21.38 To further improve the provision of efficient and quality urban services, a National Urbanisation Policy will be formulated. This policy will provide strategies

towards establishing safe, systematic, modern and attractive cities as well as townships.

21.39 Measures will be undertaken to ensure that the implementation of development projects at state, local authority and district levels is based on approved structure and local plans. These include the strict adherence by developers on the use of these plans which act as a tool for land utilisation planning and distribution of resources. The development of traditional villages and *kampung tersusun* in the urban areas will be based on village models developed by the Town and Country Planning Department.

21.40. To enhance the capacity and management capabilities of local authorities, measures will be undertaken through capacity building efforts and reviewing of systems and procedures. In this regard, efforts will be continued to enhance human capital development and increase awareness among employees on their role and responsibilities in serving the general public. To ensure that decisions made at the *Majlis Negara Kerajaan Tempatan* are implemented by state governments and local authorities, a monitoring mechanism will be developed by the MHLG.

21.41 To improve revenue collection by local authorities and to enhance their financial capabilities, the valuation of holding assets and assessment rates will be reviewed as provided for under Act 171. Greater focus will be given to local authorities which have not reviewed their assessment rates for more than 10 years. In addition, the formula for annual grants provided by the Federal Government to local authorities under the *Geran Tahunan Berasaskan Kadar Keseimbangan* will be revised to ensure that local authorities, particularly district councils, are given adequate financial assistance. To strengthen their revenue collection, local authorities will be encouraged to diversify methods of collection including adopting online payment system as well as provide discounts for early payment. In addition, local authorities will be encouraged to introduce innovative ways of increasing their revenue to reduce financial dependence on the Government and to be self-financing in the long run. Efforts will also be undertaken to expand the implementation of SLGGA to more local authorities, particularly for those with city and municipal status.

21.42 The Local Agenda 21 programme will be extended to all local authorities based on the achievements of 47 local authorities during the previous Plan period. To facilitate the involvement of local communities in this programme, more community centres will be established, which will be managed by resident associations. The community centres will be the focal point for social activities and the dissemination of information such as employment, education and training opportunities. To increase accessibility of the community to ICT-based activities, computer learning facilities will be provided at community centres.

21.43 To empower the local community to be more responsible towards the proper maintenance of their surroundings, local residents, the private sector and NGOs will be encouraged to participate in *gotong-royong* activities, undertake aggressive recycling of solid wastes and conduct campaigns and educational programmes towards creating a clean and sustainable as well as safe living environment. Incentives in the form of awards and special allocations will be provided to local authorities, which are capable of achieving and sustaining the desired level of participation.

21.44 The development programmes and projects for the new villages will be guided by its newly established master plan. These will include improvement of their basic infrastructure and social amenities as well as greater involvement of the private sector in the development of small and medium enterprises and tourism related activities. To facilitate the development of traditional villages within the local authority areas, a specific master plan will be drawn up. An allocation of RM400 million will be provided for the implementation of projects in both the traditional and new villages.

21.45 *Solid Waste Management and Cleanliness.* Management of solid waste during the Plan period will be based on the National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management (NSPSWM). The NSPSWM sets out the policies, strategies and plan of action in the management of solid waste and will be a guide for all stakeholders in the planning and allocation of resources. To facilitate the implementation of the NSPSWM, measures will be undertaken to review the existing institutions, legislation and regulations pertaining to the management of solid waste as well as to improve infrastructural facilities. The waste hierarchy under the NSPSWM will give priority towards the reduction, reuse and recovery as well as the technology and type of facilities to be provided. The construction of small and manageable-sized disposal facilities will be given priority. A new entity, the Solid Waste Management Department will be established under the MHLG to undertake policy formulation, planning and management of solid waste including financial management.

21.46 During the Plan period, public awareness campaigns will be intensified to ensure better public response and participation towards development programmes, projects and activities on the management of solid waste. These campaigns will focus towards educating the public on the need to have proper waste management facilities, the costs associated with the provision of services and the role of the public in waste minimisation programmes. A master plan on solid waste minimisation at the national level will be formulated aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of respective agencies as well as creating a society that is committed towards waste minimisation and achieving a recycling target of 22 per cent by 2020.

21.47 *Landscaping and Recreational Programmes.* In line with the national aspiration of making Malaysia a developed, clean and attractive garden nation, efforts will continue to be undertaken towards the development of quality landscape.

A comprehensive national landscape policy supported by relevant regulation will be formulated to spearhead the programme. In this regard, the National Landscape Department will ensure that planning of new public parks will be based on standards for open space and recreational facilities in line with the respective landscape master plans at the state levels. Public parks and landscaped areas will be designed to ensure easy maintenance, sustainable, attractive and accessible to the public, including the aged and the disabled. In addition, research and development (R&D) on landscaping and planning of parks will be intensified to enhance landscape development. Local authorities will continue to undertake measures to forge smart partnerships with the private sector and NGOs to upgrade and maintain public parks. These will include the provision of equipment for playgrounds, construction of fitness circuits and gazebos as well as maintaining side walks.

Fire and Rescue Services

21.48 Efforts will continue to be undertaken to improve and upgrade the quality of fire and rescue services to meet fire safety requirement of international standards. During the Plan period, emphasis will be given to building additional fire stations and control bases as well as purchasing more comprehensive fire fighting and rescue equipment. To further enhance the professionalism and skills of fire and rescue personnel, the Fire and Rescue Academy in Wakaf Tapai, Terengganu will be expanded to increase the capacity for training and equipped with the latest fire and rescue technology. In addition, a R&D centre to conduct R&D in fire safety and engineering will be established during the Plan period.

21.49 Fire prevention campaigns will continue to be conducted to enhance public awareness on the need to take precautionary measures against fire incidents. Measures will be undertaken to disseminate information on fire prevention and protection through the mass media and printed materials. The Fire and Rescue Department will continue to conduct exhibitions and training sessions using mobile exhibition vehicles. To encourage public participation in activities conducted by the Department, more fire and rescue volunteer brigades will be established, especially in sub-urban and residential areas.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND ALLOCATION

21.50 During the Plan period, MHLG will take the lead role in undertaking public low-cost housing programmes and the provision of urban services including fire and rescue services while the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development will be the leading agency in rural housing development. The provision of institutional quarters and staff accommodation will be handled by the respective government agencies. A total of RM 18.4 billion will be allocated for housing development and urban services as shown in *Table 21-5*. Public sector housing

programmes will be provided with an allocation of RM9.5 billion out of which RM6.8 billion will be for institutional quarters and the balance for low-cost houses and PPRT. A total of RM9.0 billion will be provided for urban services which include RM1.5 billion for fire and rescue services.

TABLE 21-5

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE AND ALLOCATION FOR HOUSING AND URBAN SERVICES, 2001-2010
(RM million)

<i>Programme</i>	<i>8MP Expenditure</i>	<i>9MP Allocation</i>
Housing	6,972.1	9,452.0
Public Housing	6,611.2	9,101.3
Low-cost Housing	3,242.3	2,256.5
Institutional Quarters and Staff Accommodation	3,368.9	6,844.8
Rural Housing	360.8	350.7
Housing for the Hardcore Poor	101.8	233.1
Regrouping of Villages and Rural Growth Centres	259.0	117.6
Urban Services	7,093.0	8,993.0
Local Authorities	5,485.1	7,464.0
Fire and Rescue Services	1,607.9	1,529.0
Total	14,065.1	18,445.0

Source: Economic Planning Unit

V. CONCLUSION

21.51 During the Eighth Plan period, the overall performance of the housing programme surpassed the Plan target. The implementation of the housing and urban services programmes contributed to the enhancement in the quality of life and living standards of the population in the urban and rural areas. During the Ninth Plan period, priority will continue to be given to the provision of adequate, affordable and quality houses for all Malaysians in various income levels with emphasis on the low-income group and the poor. Efforts will be undertaken to improve the coverage and quality of urban services and encourage greater participation of the local community and the private sector in the management of their living environment. To ensure provision of better fire and rescue services, the capability of personnel will be enhanced through knowledge and skills development in fire safety and fire engineering.