

Perpustakaan
DEWAN BANDARAYA KUALA LUMPUR



SQUATTER RELOCATION AND SITE
AND SERVICES PROJECT AT
SALAK SOUTH IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY

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23. 8. 77



PERBADANAN PEMBANGUNAN BANDAR



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INTRODUCTION

It has been established that there exists an increasingly enormous housing gap in the nation particularly among the lower income groups. Research and statistical analyses have shown that the very poor, as much as 45% of the population, is not currently able to benefit either from the public or private sector housing programmes, without drastically affecting their already meagre incomes. Consequently, many among the poor have resorted to not only sub-standard dwelling alternatives, but have resorted to illegal 'squatting' to solve their housing needs* It appears that for the lower income groups squatter housing is the only avenue and viable solution left open to them to mitigate their basic shelter requirements.

Therefore, squatter-settlements have mushroomed in the Federal Territory and other urban centres of the country, especially in areas close to employment such as industrial estates. In one respect, these squatters in such locations, while may be undertaking illegal activities, yet they perform a vital function in the economy, they provide the man-power resources that are required by the many factories in the area- Because employment is available yet housing is not provided close to place of employment, the lower income workers often have no choice left but to resort to squatting* Therefore, from this view point their actions are merely an expediency measure and represent part and parcel of the problems of housing requirements for the lower income squatter of the community.

In the past squatter-settlements and squatter problems have often been viewed rather negatively by various local authorities, and hence tough measures such as demolition and removal or even arrests have been enforced. Such actions unless complemented by the provision of alternative housing for the displaced squatters, especially in close proximity to their place of employment, will have the adverse effects - demolition of the houses, for example,