

High-rise blocks all set to sport a new look

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MORE than 2,500 residents of the People's Housing Project (PPR) flats in Jalan Sungai, Penang, can rejoice as their two blocks of flats are set to get a new coat of paint by the end of the year.

Penang Municipal Councillor Ramlah Bee Asiahoo said the council allocated RM700,000 for the repainting of the state-owned low-cost flats which had 529 units.

The repainting project will begin in mid-August after Hari Raya Puasa.

"We are also upgrading the playground to turn it into a recreational park with outdoor gym facilities.

"We hope that with these physical changes here, the residents will be a happier lot," she said in her speech during a ceremony held to introduce the flats' community organisation which comprised the residents on Saturday.

It was reported on Nov 17 last year that the flats were chosen to undergo the proposed Gender Responsive Budgeting pilot project initiated by the Penang Women Development Corporation and in collaboration with the council.

The residents had decided that this year's budg-



What do you think?: Shahrudin (right) showing a group of residents the new colour scheme for the flats.

ents would give suggestions on the upkeep of the flats.

He said only 60% of the residents there had paid their monthly rental.

"So, we hope that with the new progress and programmes, more residents will pay their rental," he said, adding that rent for a month cost RM102.

Sungai Pinang assemblyman Lim Siew Khim, who was also present, said local democracy was being practised among the residents as they had discussed their needs in a systematic way before taking a vote on those needs.

et should focus on six main aspects — maintenance, safety, cleanliness, car park, playground and safety awareness campaigns.

The total allocation this year is RM867,440 inclusive of the RM700,000 repainting project.

Ramlah Bee also urged the residents to pay their monthly rental so that the council would have sufficient funds for future projects for the flats.

She said the rental arrears came up to about RM102,000.

The flats' community organisation chairman Shahrudin Mohd Sharif said he hoped the resi-