

Kathputli plan a step towards making city slum-free, says DDA

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EMPHASISING the importance of the Kathputli Colony in situ redevelopment scheme, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Thursday said the success of the project would be a step towards ensuring a slum-free national capital.

The redevelopment plan is a project between the DDA and real estate firm Raheja Developers, under which flats will be built in place of the slum cluster at Kathputli Colony. The residents of the slum will be shifted to a camp in Anand Parbat temporarily. When the flats are ready in about two years, they will shift into them.

"There are 291 slums on DDA land. We are making a start with the Kathputli Colony project. If it takes off, we can take up similar projects," DDA vice-chairman Bavinder Kumar said.

He emphasised that no force would be used to relocate residents of the colony to Anand Parbat.

While one group of residents at the colony is against the move, some families have shown a willingness to move to Anand Parbat.

The DDA said tokens or chits, mentioning the names of residents and jhuggi numbers, had been issued to 50 people, who had shown willingness to relocate.

"We have tried to accommodate the demands of the slum-dwellers. The cut-off for allotment of flats is as per 2009 guidelines, but we have decided to allot flats to those people also,

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THE DDA has sought the Solicitor-General of India's advice on whether it can honour the general power of attorney as properties are no longer being accepted for conversion to freehold on its basis. Besides, DDA vice-chairman Balwinder Kumar said the authority was coming up with a policy to provide some relief to people, whose ancestors paid chullah tax to the British for allowing them to stay on. "We have come up with a policy so that such people can get their properties converted from leasehold to freehold...", he said.

Now, properties without sanctioned building plan are not converted from leasehold to freehold. For such properties, the DDA plans to accept certificates from registered architects in lieu of building plans.

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who were residing in the colony during the 2010-2011 DDA survey. Also, those living on upper floors will also be accommodated," Kumar said.

While around 2,800 flats will be constructed, if necessary, more flats will be built. "The flats will be handed over to the residents free of cost and will be bigger than EWS flats...", Kumar said.

A tripartite agreement will be signed between the slum-dwellers, the DDA and Raheja Developers. "The flats will be allotted to the residents on leasehold basis for may be around 15 years... Then, it may be converted to freehold," an official said.