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Council-CF

45 HOTELS AND CHALETS IN LANGKAWI DO NOT MEET CF REQUIREMENTS

LANGKAWI, March 23 (Bernama) -- The owners of 45 hotels and chalets on this island resort, which are operating without certificates of fitness (CF), have been given until the end of June to meet the requirements for CFs to be issued.

State Local Government and Information Committee chairman Abdullah Hasnan Kamaruddin said today that after the deadline the Langkawi district council would seal all such premises found operating without CFs.

He said the earlier applications for CFs by 37 owners had been rejected because the premises did not obtain technical verifications from the Fire Services and Public Works departments and Tenaga Nasional Berhad while the other eight were not even fit to apply as they did not have building plans.

He told reporters after chairing a meeting between the council and owners of chalets and hotels in Langkawi, here, that only 21 such establishments on the island had CFs.

However, all were allowed to operate so as not to hamper efforts to promote Langkawi as a world-class island resort.

Among the premises believed to be operating without CFs are the Delima Resort owned by Sarawak entrepreneur Tan Sri Ting Pek Khiing, Mahsuri International Exhibition Hall, Sheraton Perdana and the Gunung Raya Conference Centre.

Abdullah Hasnan regretted that big hotels and chalets run by prominent businessmen were involved.

"They were allowed to operate without CFs because when Langkawi was promoted, the island did not have enough lodging rooms but after so long they have failed to obtain the certificates," he said.

He also criticised the owners' lackadaisical attitude where out of 50 invited, only 28 attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also touched on the CF issue during his visit to Langkawi last week when he said that CFs should be issued within six months after completion of the buildings if the premises met all the stipulated conditions. -- Bernama

ZAA ZUL JK