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Anwar-levy

STATE GOVERNMENTS URGED TO COMPLY WITH PROPERTY LEVY RULING

PULAU PINANG, Jan 26 (Bernama) -- State governments planning to relax the ruling on imposition of levy on property purchase by foreigners should reconsider their move, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

Relaxing the rule too much would not be in the interest of locals, he told reporters after chairing the Bumiputera Participation Steering Committee meeting here.

"State governments can make proposals, but as it is we are still bound by the decision of the National Land Council and National Finance Council, which have agreed on the matter," he said.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Zin Ghani had said that Melaka would not impose a RM100,000 levy on foreigners buying property costing at least RM250,000 in the state.

Zin said imposing the levy would affect the growth of the state's property sector.

Anwar said relaxations had in fact been made for the purchase of industrial and recreational sites.

Anwar also announced that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to appoint Penang Island Municipal Council Chairman Datuk Tan Ghim Hwa, who retires in March, as the new Penang Port Commission (PPC) Chairman.

The appointment would take effect once it had been consented to by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, he said.

Tan, who is state Gerakan Chairman, will succeed Datuk Zainol Abidin Salleh, whose contract expires in March.

Zainol, a former Pulau Pinang State Secretary, has been holding the post since Jan 1, 1994.

Anwar was also asked to comment on Umno Youth Chief Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik's statement that some people in the mass media seemed to have their own agenda on how the party leadership should be like.

In a lighter vein, Anwar said: "In the Ramadan month we concentrate on performing our religious obligations, must be patient and humble, and try to improve ourselves, our families and society. I do not want to debate...on many other matters."

Pressed further by reporters, Anwar said Rahim was entitled to his opinion and so were the media as long as the views expressed were positive and within limit. -- Bernama