

Ting: Don't delay ⁷ processing ^{S.S. 7.98} of applications

By FOONG PEK YEE

KUALA LUMPUR: The Cabinet wants approving authorities not to delay the processing of applications for housing development.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said the Cabinet, which discussed the matter yesterday, viewed it seriously, especially during the current economic slowdown.

"There have been many complaints of such delays recently, including those made to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said.

He said housing development, a sub-sector in the construction sector was an important component in the nation's economic growth.

The Government recently set up a RM2bil special housing fund to expedite the construction of houses below

RM150,000 each.

"Co-operation from all involved is important to keep the housing industry growing," he said, adding that it provided jobs for many people in downstream activities.

"All local authorities, state governments and departments in the ministry have been urged to expedite the processing of housing development applications," he told reporters before post Cabinet meeting here yesterday.

Dr Ting said he had written to state governments in April requesting co-operation on the matter, adding that two Mentris Besar had stated their support in writing.

He said he had also instructed the ministry's officials to process housing developer licence within a month from applications, if applications were complete.

On another matter, Dr Ting said the first batch of applications by developers for loans under the RM2bil special housing fund would know the results by end of this month.

The fund, announced by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was aimed at providing more affordable housing for the people, he said.