

No CF delay

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Only a two-week wait for successful applicants, says Ting

By DERRICK VINESH

BUTTERWORTH: Certificates of fitness for all housing and commercial buildings will be deemed issued if successful applicants do not receive official notification within two weeks.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said it would be mandatory for all local authorities to issue CFs within two weeks or notify the applicants within the period why it could not be issued.

However, he said, the regulation would only apply when complete documents were submitted for approval.

"The ministry is disappointed with several local authorities which refuse to issue CFs within the period.

"We will include provisions in the Uniform Building Bylaw 1984 to make sure that these authorities issue CFs immediately upon re-

ceiving *Borang E* (the E Form) from applicants," he told reporters after handing over cheques for contributions in lieu of rates to the Penang and Seberang Perai municipal councils yesterday.

He said 70% of the 96 local authorities in the peninsula had abided by the ruling while the errant ones often blamed developers for not meeting certain requirements.

"We are working out the legal implications before implementing this ruling and hope to gazette it by year-end," he said.

Dr Ting said the reason for "deeming the CFs as issued" after the two-week period was to avoid any party from suing local authorities for failing to abide by the law.

"Once there is a provision in the law, then all local authorities must follow it. This will standardise the issuing of CFs in all states."

Under a Cabinet ruling, CFs must be issued within two weeks after buyers get their keys (delivery of vacant possession) from devel-

opers who had met all criteria in their construction.

Dr Ting said some local authorities had delayed the issuing of CFs by between six months and a year. "This not only burdens the buyers but also prevents the Government from collecting revenue."

He said the move was in line with the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for government departments, ministries and agencies to hasten approval of development project applications.

Earlier, Dr Ting handed over two cheques for RM4mil to Seberang Perai council president Daud Taha and Penang council secretary Mohtar Abas, who represented president Dr Teng Hock Nan.

The minister later visited the *Jom Singgah MPSP* (Let's Visit MPSP) carnival, organised by the Seberang Perai Municipal Council in conjunction with its 24th Council Day celebrations.