

14/12/1998

Call to organise roadshows in all major towns

MALACCA, Sun. - Developers and financial institutions have been asked to extend the Home Ownership campaign launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday to major towns with excessive unsold units.

Housing and Local Government Deputy Minister Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui said today Johor and Penang had been identified by the Ministry as States with many unsold houses.

"The Housing Developers Association of Malaysia, banks and financial institutions should carry out a series of roadshows or hold expositions at major towns so that more people can own a house," he said.

"Such a campaign should not be concentrated only in the Klang Valley," he told reporters after opening the Fire and Rescue Department sports carnival at the Hang Jebat hall in Ayer Keroh.

Chin said through such efforts, developers and banks could help the Government carry out the campaign to its fullest extent. "They can work with the government agencies in holding such promotions."

Also present were the department's director-general Datuk Dr Soh Chai Hock and Malacca Fire and Rescue Department director Mohd Husain Ahmad Takin.

Chin said he was told by HDAM president Datuk Eddy Chen that the initial response for the campaign had been overwhelming.

"Feedback from some developers was that tremendous response had been received for their low and medium-priced houses. There were also those who said the demand had exceeded the number of units available."

"A lot of interest is shown by buyers. Therefore, it is wise for developers to bring the campaign to the State level."

Chin said the Ministry would be able to gauge responses from the public towards the month-long campaign in the next few weeks.

The campaign is organised by the Government together with Bank Negara Malaysia, Housing Developers Association, the Association of Banks Malaysia and the Association of Finance Companies in Malaysia.

More than 260 developers are taking part.

Apart from discounts and low interest on loans, the incentives include government housing loans for civil servants after one year of service, down from the previous five years of service requirement.

Foreigners also stand to gain as they can secure financing of up to 50 per cent from local financial institutions and buy an unlimited number of properties costing RM250,000 and above.

Those with work permits can get up to 95 per cent in loans, up from the previous 60 per cent.

These incentives are only for the duration of the campaign.

Dr Mahathir had said the incentives would boost the property market adding that during the campaign period, developers would give a minimum discount of 10 per cent for properties while Bumiputeras would get an additional five per cent.

Stamp duty would be waived for purchases.

(END)