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50,000 turn up on first day of fair

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Malaysian Property Fair at the Putra World Trade Centre got off to a roaring start today when some 50,000 members of the public flocked to the exhibition hall to get an idea of or book the properties on offer.

The hall was packed with prospective homebuyers shopping for a good deal among the 177 booths. The fair is being organised in conjunction with the month-long Home Ownership Campaign, which began on Dec 12.

Eighty-four developers are taking part in the fair to showcase their properties, ranging from medium-cost homes to the higher and more exclusive end of the property market.

Also taking part are banks and finance companies, who are present to give first-hand information to buyers about their eligibility for the financial incentives being offered under the campaign.

Insurance companies and those offering home-related services, such as security systems, are also on hand.

Adding to the general excitement was a brand new Proton Wira parked outside the hall's entrance. The car is the grand prize for the winner of a lucky draw, set for the end of January.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also stepped into the hall this evening to officially open the exhibition and visit some of the booths himself. He was accompanied by the Housing Developers Association of Malaysia president, Datuk Eddy Cheng and the association's Terengganu branch chairman Datuk Tok Teng Sai.

Also present were Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamad, who is also the Entrepreneur Development Minister, and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh.

The exhibition, which ends on Jan 3, is being organised by the HDAM, the Association of Banks Malaysia and the Association of Finance Companies Malaysia.

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