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Isa urges Negri developers to start approved schemes

SEREMBAN, Wed. - Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad today urged project developers in Negri Sembilan to take advantage of the Government's move to finance infrastructure projects.

He said developers of 90 mixed housing projects, which had been approved in the State but yet to be implemented, should initiate efforts to start their projects.

"This way, they will help activate other sectors of the economy, especially the construction industry," he told reporters after chairing the State executive council meeting at Wisma Negri here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here yesterday that the Government would finance infrastructure projects as it would trigger spin-offs in other sectors of the economy.

This was one of the recommendations made by the National Economic Action Council which called for such projects be given sufficient support thus offsetting a major contraction of the economy.

Mohamad Isa said banks should also help the affected developers to ensure the projects were carried out without much difficulty.

"Our Exco meeting today also discussed measures that can be taken by the State Land and Mines Department to speed up the approval of development projects," he said, adding that the State had approved the construction of 10,500 low-cost housing units.

He also said the State would continue to receive aid from the Federal Government on the infrastructure projects.

The Menteri Besar also said the Seremban-Kuala Pilah road-straightening project, costing RM23 million, announced by the Works Ministry was among the projects identified.

He said the State would request the Works Ministry to start on the project immediately once the design had been completed.

"If they can start with the first kilometre, that will be fine with us as it may take quite some time to complete the whole project," he said, adding that its early implementation might help ease congestion at certain section of the existing winding Bukit Putus road.

Meanwhile, he said, the State welcomed the Housing and Local Government Ministry move to introduce guidelines on the issuance of certificates of fitness for housing projects.

He said that the State had indeed directed all its local government authorities to ensure developers submit a complete application covering all technical reports by the departments concerned before issuing the CFs.

"If developers fail to complete the requirements, they only have themselves to blame and not the authorities for non-issuance of CFs," he added.

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