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DEVELOPERS-PRICE HIKE

REPORT UNETHICAL PRACTICES BY DEVELOPERS, SAYS MUSTAPA

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- The public should report to the authorities any suspected cases of unethical practices by developers participating in the Home Ownership Campaign, said Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed today.

"Let us know and we will investigate," he told reporters at the ground breaking ceremony of Menara Great Eastern Life here today.

The campaign is a joint effort involving the Housing Developers Association, Association of Banks Malaysia and Association of Finance Companies Malaysia and is supervised by Bank Negara.

The government, he added, was given the understanding that there will be no price hikes and as such, Bank Negara and the relevant authorities will take action against any participating developer who engages in unethical practices.

He said the developers participating in the campaign had promised to hold an exhibition some time this week which will serve as a one-stop centre to assist members of the public in purchasing residential units.

This exhibition could help to prevent any unethical practices as it allows potential housebuyers to compare prices, locations and the facilities offered by developers.

The exhibition would also make it easier for buyers to apply for housing loans from banks, finance companies and the government's housing loan division as well as to make withdrawals from the Employee's Provident Fund (EPF).

On the discounts offered during the campaign period, Mustapa said the Housing Developers Association has agreed to offer an additional 10 percent discount on the property prices that had already been reduced due to the depressed market.

The campaign, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last Saturday, will run till Jan 12, 1999.

Apart from the discounts and low-interest loans being offered to purchasers, other incentives include allowing civil servants who had completed one year of service to take up government housing loans and providing 50 percent financing to foreigners for unlimited properties priced above RM250,000. -- BERNAMA

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