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City Hall urges building owners to switch on lights

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KUALA Lumpur City Hall has again appealed to building owners and tenants in the Federal Territory to light up their premises - both inside and outside - in conjunction with the coming triple celebrations.

Speaking to reporters after briefing 150 building owners and representatives at City Hall on this matter, deputy director general Ruslin Hassan said the Government was appealing to building owners to light up their properties to enhance the festive mood in conjunction with the Merdeka celebration, SEA Games and the Mega Sales Carnival.

He said, ideally, the lights should be on from Friday till Sept 16.

Ruslin said building owners had also been requested to fly the Malaysian flag at their properties for the entire duration "to show their love for the country".

Asked if the owners would be penalised should they fail to light up their buildings, Ruslin said the Government was appealing to them to help make the three events more colourful and meaningful.

"There will be no penalty. The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is personally involved in this matter. He met building owners and tenants at a dinner function recently to convey this message.

"We at City Hall have been asked to monitor the situation. We will be checking the level of participation daily.

"The names of errant building owners will be handed to Dr Mahathir," said Ruslin.

Also present at the briefing was Tenaga Nasional Berhad Distribution business operation manager Wahizan Abdul Rahman who confirmed that a 50 per cent discount on electricity charges would be given to building owners who light up their properties.

But he said the discount would be on the charges incurred over and above normal usage.

"We will get the average usage over the last six months from February.

The discount is applicable to anything incurred above the average charge," said Wahizan.

He said the discount would only be offered to building owners who had applied to participate for the celebration period.

"The discount is not an automatic and blanket offer for all building owners," he added.

He said application forms were available at all TNB offices and building owners had till Sept 1 to submit their application to participate and qualify for the 50 per cent discount.

Wahizan said the discount would be offered to owners of all commercial buildings including shops, office blocks, hotels and shopping complexes.