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Firm support for construction industry

THE Government will continue to give its support to the construction industry due to its potential as a productive sector to revitalise the country's economy.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the chairman of the National Economic Action Council, had asked for the names of the banks which failed to support the Government's effort by refusing loans to housing developers.

"The NEAC has initiated a series of discussions with all the industry players in revitalising the country's economy and the construction industry has been identified as the most productive," he said when winding up points raised by MPs debating the Housing Developers (Control and Licensing) (Amendment) Bill 2001.

Ong said the Government was providing aid to revive abandoned housing projects.

He said such efforts were also supported by Syarikat Perumahan Negara.

An important provision in the amendment was for the establishment of a tribunal for housebuyers to make claims for cases below RM25,000.

"With the tribunal, cases need not go through the courts which is time consuming and involves costs including appointing lawyers."

(END)