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Now we know why PM is lonely

IF you have not owned a house, you will wait in great anticipation and even excitement when your new house is being constructed. However, the joy of moving into your dream house can quickly turn into frustration if you find that you now have to wait longer than necessary for the all-important Certificate of Fitness to be issued before you can finally shift in. Those who have undergone such an experience will certainly sympathise with the predicament of the new house owners who have to endure delays in the issue of CFs in, of all places, the new administrative centre of Putrajaya.

The delays have even prompted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to call on the relevant authorities to expedite the issuance of the CFs so that more civil servants can move into their homes. The development of Putrajaya is a key component in the country's goal to become a developed nation. It is inconceivable that accelerating the pace of civil servants residing in Putrajaya and thus generating more commercial activity and other economic spin-offs there, should be held up because of something as mundane as having no CFs. If a house is already completed, a CF should normally be issued within two weeks. The CF is issued after all technical matters are endorsed by seven departments, including agencies as diverse as the Fire and Rescue and the Public Works Department. This being the case, delays can arise if even one or two departments have not endorsed the completed houses on matters under their jurisdiction.

It is surprising, however, why there should be delays in issuing the CFs in Putrajaya. When Putrajaya was declared a Federal Territory on Feb 1, Putrajaya Corp was empowered to issue CFs and approve building plans. Thus, it should function like a one-stop agency and there should be no hassle in coming out with the CFs. What else is there? A Supremo in Putrajaya? We thought we already have one!

Whatever the reason for the CF delays, it should be sorted out as soon as possible because Putrajaya is no ordinary city as it symbolises what is best and efficient for the country.

Given its implications, the CF problem in Putrajaya has rightfully been thrust into the limelight. But for years, there had been no lack of housebuyers in the country who had to wait for a long time to shift into their newly-built houses because of delays in the issuance of CFs. This is also costly in financial terms because the buyer has to start repaying the bank loan for a completed house which he cannot stay in. At the same time, he has to bear the financial burden of paying the rental for his existing house. The financial strain on his family can be avoided if every department concerned strives to make it a point to keep within the two-week timeframe in issuing the CF. The house buyer should not be kept in the dark and should be informed as to what is causing the delay.

It is understandable that the departments concerned want to make all the necessary checks before a house is declared safe for occupants. But this should not be made into an excuse for unnecessary delays in issuing the CFs which can cause deep frustration and financial hardship to the house owner.

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