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Still waiting for the directive on waiver

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I REFER to the recent announcement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the waiver of stamp duty, waiver of Government tax for credit cards and reduction of EPF contributions by employees. I am glad to read the clarification on the EPF reduction issue (NST, April 18).

However, I am disappointed at the other two issues of the waiver of stamp duty and Government tax. I have recently upgraded my property. My husband and I just signed a sales and purchase agreement for a double-storey detached house. We were happy when we read about the waiver of the stamp duty. This would save us about RM10,000.

But our happiness was short-lived. We have our SPA agreement stamped in March, 2001. However, our transfer of property is yet to be completed. The impression we got from the announcement was that we should enjoy the waiver of the stamp duty since the documentation is not executed yet.

And I have checked with the developer as well as our lawyers and got the same answer from them that they had not received any directive or circular from the stamp duty office about this waiver. They said the stamp duty authority would need this directive from the Prime Minister's Office.

And to much regret, I cannot delay in the execution of my transfer as otherwise it would lead to a delay in the release of payment from my end-financier or the bank. And this could lead to hundreds of ringgits in late payment interest. I have limited time to ensure the execution of transfer documentation.

The second problem was over the credit card as I was recently billed for the RM50 Government tax even though this is supposed to be waived. The bank has gave the same reply that there was no directive from the Prime Minister's Office.