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Ong-Council

ONG TELLS COUNCILS TO PREPARE REPORT ON CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS

MELAKA, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Local authorities nationwide have been directed to prepare an in-depth report on the delay in issuance of certificates of fitness for occupancy (CFs) to developers over the last six months.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, today said the report should be sent to the ministry within two weeks following yesterday's Cabinet decision, for local authorities to prepare an in-depth report identifying reasons for the delay in issuing CFs for completed buildings.

"The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gave his views in the Cabinet yesterday that he was not happy with the number of completed buildings which are still without CFs," he told reporters after opening the Malaysian Municipalities Corporation Consultative Committee meeting (1/2003) here.

The meeting was attended by mayors and presidents of city halls, city councils and municipal councils nationwide.

"Through this report prepared with the support of the state governments we will have a follow-up mechanism to handle the issue of CFs," he said.

Ong said the public often perceived that it was the local authorities' fault whenever there is a completed building waiting to be occupied.

"The local authorities will approve CFs only if all requirements have been met for occupation of a building or a housing project," he said.

In his speech earlier Ong said local authorities should be more aggressive and take immediate action as there were complaints from many quarters about weaknesses in the way local authorities executed their duties and functions.

"We realise there are many problems which burden the local authorities, but how long are we going to hide behind these excuses without acting in a proactive or aggressive manner?," he asked.

On the Melaka state government's application for the Historic City of Melaka Municipal Council to be upgraded to City Hall, Ong said the ministry was working towards realising that aim.

He said efforts were underway to approve the proposal for the council to be upgraded into city hall status before April 15, in conjunction with Melaka being declared a historical city.

-- BERNAMA

NO VRN