

12 JUL 2004

Abdullah-Developer

PROVIDE QUALITY HOUSING, PM TELLS DEVELOPERS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said tonight housing developers should examine their housing philosophy and try to deliver quality housing for quality living at affordable prices.

He said developers needed to upgrade their thinking on how to plan, design and build township and home.

"As Malaysia gets more developed and its people more affluent and discerning, quality living should be paramount objective of township or housing estate.

"As housing developers, you should not think of your work as merely building houses for the sake of providing basic needs and shelter for the people," he said during a tribute dinner for former Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad organised by Real Estate Housing Developer Association (REHDA) here.

He said the concept of quality living means that developers of housing estate and township must strive to provide adequate amenities and economic opportunity to the house buyers to live comfortably.

He said development must be designed in such a way as to promote interaction between residents so that they might live in a true spirit of a multi-cultural Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said adequate attention must also be paid to the housing needs of special groups such as the disabled, single mothers and the lower income groups.

"These include easy and affordable access to transportation, schools, and hospitals," he said.

Beside this, Abdullah said developers had to also think of ways to ensure that the security and safety needs of the residents were met.

Elaborating further, he said the quality housing meanwhile means that developers have to pay more attention to the actual building quality

of
their houses.

"This include maintainance of the buildings after they are built," he said.

Abdullah said he believed that the private sectors had to play a more active and responsible role to further improve the current system of delivery of houses.

"I must remind developers and all parties involved in the delivery process that they are put in business by house buyers. Developers must not take them for granted and should not betray the trust of house buyers," he said.

Abdullah also advised developers to undertake proper market research studies and exercise due deligence before they launched their projects in order to minimize the risk of unsold inventory that would eventually add to the property over supply in the market.

Earlier, Abdullah in a tribute to Tun Dr Mahathir leadership said, it was befitting for the industry to give special recognition to Tun Dr Mahathir for his efforts in transforming Malaysia into a modern and progressive nation.

He added Malaysia had achieved tremendous progress and development during Dr Mahathir tenure as Prime Minister.

Abdullah also launched REHDA Institute which is the intellectual, research and development and training arm of REHDA.

-- BERNAMA

WNZ NZR HM ABG