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CF delays: Minister wants list of projects

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MALACCA, Thurs. - All local councils have been directed to provide within two weeks the lists of completed projects in their areas that have yet to be issued with certificates of fitness for occupancy.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting issued the directive at the three-day Consultative Committee of Local Councils meeting that began here today.

This was issued after the Cabinet, at its meeting yesterday, wanted to know the reasons for the delay in the issuance of CFs.

Ong directed all local council heads to compile their lists of completed projects that had yet to receive the CFs after submitting their applications for more than six months.

"The local councils are also asked to give detailed reasons why each of the projects has not been issued with CFs.

"I do not deny that some projects could not be issued with CFs because the developers have not adhered to certain regulations or safety requirements set by the authorities.

"The Cabinet also wants to know which requirements they have failed to comply with," he said.

Ong said his ministry would forward the feedback to the Cabinet, which might decide on ways to speed up the process of issuing CFs.

Today's meeting was attended by 33 local council presidents, three city mayors and four municipal council presidents.

Asked whether the directive would pressure local councils, Ong said it was to identify the reasons for the delays and improve existing measures as public expectations were high.

Ong said the local councils are the single most authoritative power for issuing the CFO after consulting various departments and agencies, and there should be no delay.

Earlier in his speech, Ong asked the local council heads to work on ways to better collect tax arrears from residents as directed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently.

Studies by the ministry, he said, showed that in 2000, out of a total of RM1.075 billion in taxes due to the local councils, only RM884.8 million or 82.3 per cent was collected.