

13/06/2003

MB: Use common sense in approving projects

SHAH ALAM, Thurs. - Government staff should use their common sense in approving projects to cut bureaucratic red tape.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo said a lot of things would have changed if it took "five long years" to approve a landscaping project.

He said such matters should take only about six months. Approvals for other kinds of projects should also be speeded up.

For example, to issue a certificate of fitness for a building, comments from 12 agencies are needed.

"But if just one doesn't give its comment, the CF cannot be issued.

"In such cases, common sense should prevail."

Dr Mohd Khir was speaking at a gathering with about 2,000 government staff from various departments who were involved in development projects in the State last year.

He said despite the Land Office doing its best, approvals for many applications were still pending.

Common sense could be used as long as it was within the law and did not involve personal interests, he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday directed all State Governments to cut red tape to facilitate speedy approvals of all planned projects.

On development projects in the State, Dr Mohd Khir said of the RM3.4 billion allocated last year under the Eighth Malaysia Plan, RM3.3 billion (95 per cent) had been spent by 63 departments and agencies.

He said this involved 915 projects and was the highest in the country, followed by Penang (94.9 per cent) and Sabah (94.7).

Speaking on a different issue later, Dr Mohd Khir called on local councils to focus on maintenance rather than development.

"Much of Selangor is developed and it's time to maintain what we have built."