

DAP: CIQ toll hikes can affect property market

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DAP's Senai assemblyperson Wong Shu Qi today said that the government's decision to hike the tolls at the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) complex in Johor Bahru can have an adverse impact of the property market in the Iskandar region.

Wong pointed out that Singaporean owners constituted about 76 percent of foreign buyers who purchased properties in Johor last year.

"While property agents are still releasing optimistic news regarding the property boom, we must remind the government that the property bubble burst may come even faster when both the government and people are not ready to bear the consequences," she said in a statement today.

"Less disposable income after paying toll will lead to fewer purchases and market downturn. Everyone including workers who work in Johor Bahru will be adversely affected," she added.

Wong (right) said that the prospect for the property market in the state could turn "gloomier" if Singaporean employers decide to slash salaries of Malaysian workers as a result of the four-fold toll hike.

While welcoming the government's intention to conduct a study to improve public transportation in Johor Bahru, Wong also reminded the authorities that the government should not react only after raising toll for the people.

"I must remind the BN government the solutions should come first and not after the announcement was made public. This lesson must be learnt and not be done again and again," she said.

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