

# House buyers can soon sue builders, cancel purchases

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The position of house buyers will soon be strengthened and they will have more avenues to settle their problems with developers.

By Dec 14, the amendments to the Housing Development Act will be tabled in Parliament.

For one, the new regulations under the Housing Development Control and Licensing Act 1966 and Regulations will allow buyers to pull out of their contracts if the developer does not start work within six months of the date stated in the contract.

According to Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, the present Act only gives this right to developers who may want to delay construction.

"Also, if a buyer wants to take the developer to court over problems with their finished property, they can do so once the amend-

ments are in place," he said.

At the moment, he said, buyers have to get approval from the bank which offered them the loans before they could do so.

"The ministry has looked at the Act so it benefits and protects buyers from now on," he said after receiving a RM1 million cheque from Sunrise Berhad to help students of Sunrise-Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman who need financial aid for their education.

Ong said the Housing Controller appointed by the ministry could also freeze the Housing Developer Account (HDA) if a developer does not comply with the Act.

"All penalties will double or triple, so developers won't take things too lightly."

On an unrelated matter, Ong congratulated Nicol David for grabbing her second Squash World Championship title.

"This is not a coincidence.

"She is good and she persevered. We need more people like her to make us all proud," said Ong.