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'Follow rules to get licence'

Minister tells Penang developers all applications are treated equally

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PETALING JAYA: The process of obtaining a developer's licence from the Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry is to follow the guidelines, says its minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan.

Responding to threats of developers and the Penang government suing his ministry over delays in the issuance of the Advertising Permit and Developers Licences (APDL), Rahman said "all applications are treated equally".

"It is up to them if they want to take legal action but the rules must be followed. My ministry has to make sure that all the documents for each application is complete and thoroughly reviewed," he said.

Yesterday, Penang Housing, Town and Country Planning Committee chairman Jagdeep Singh Deo was reported as saying the state government would be behind any developer that took legal action against the ministry.

At least 30 developers in the state claimed that they had yet to receive their APDL since October. They claimed they had fulfilled conditions set by the ministry.

Developers cannot advertise and sell their products without the APDL.

Jagdeep, speaking at a press conference

If they are unhappy and want to sue they can do that, just like anyone can sue the Penang state government if they feel that there has been unnecessary delays in projects to build affordable homes.

Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan

with the Real Estate and Housing Developers Association Penang chairman Datuk Jerry Chan, said the Penang government was looking at "legal avenues" to resolve the matter.

Rahman said the Housing Development (Control and Licensing) Act, which governed the APDL, allowed applicants the right to appeal.

"If they are unhappy and want to sue they can do that, just like anyone can sue the Penang state government if they feel that there has been unnecessary delays in projects to build affordable homes," said Rahman.