



Headline	Builders may give housing loans
MediaTitle	The Sun
Date	09 Sep 2016
Section	National
Page No	7
Language	English
Journalist	N/A
Frequency	Daily



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> To help buyers facing difficulties securing assistance from banks: Noh

PETALING JAYA: The Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry is mulling a proposal for housing developers to be issued a money-lending licence to help non-bankable house buyers, and overcome down payment issues.

Its minister, Tan Sri Noh Omar, said he observed that many buyers have difficulty making down payments.

"I am thus proposing that eligible housing developers, especially those with deep-pockets like Sunway Group, EcoWorld, Mah Sing and Glomac be issued a money-lending licence.

"It will be restricted to only providing end-financing to eligible house buyers who face difficulty in securing loans from banks," he said at the launch of the 19th National Housing and Property Summit, here yesterday.

He described the proposal as a win-win situation for both developers and house buyers.

"For developers, this end-financing facility offers a second profit centre after the sale of the houses," he added.

Noh said another new initiative recently approved by the government is the "Rent To Own" or R2O, for all eligible buyers of the People's Housing Project scheme.

"With the introduction of this new R2O initiative, I hope we'll be able to resolve the long outstanding problem of non-bankable house buyers," he added.

Later at a press conference, Noh said interested developers can submit an application for the money-lending licence, under the Money Lender Act (Revised 2011) or Act 400 under the purview of the ministry.
- Bernama