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N9 seeks advice from Rehda on ways to reduce construction costs

SEREMBAN: The Negeri Sembilan government has sought advice from the Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (Rehda) on ways to reduce construction costs.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said he had asked Rehda to submit proposals or terms that could be waived to help reduce construction costs without compromising on safety.

"The state government will sit down with REHDA to find out what development aspects that could be exempted which can indirectly cut construction costs. If the construction costs are reduced, developers can further lower the prices of properties.

"For example, if there is a requirement for a second staircase, is there really a need for another staircase as it will add costs as it reduces the floor space," he told reporters after opening the Malaysian Housing and Property Expo (Mapex) at Seremban Prima here Friday.

Rehda Malaysia deputy president Datuk Soam Heng Choon and Rehda Negeri Sembilan chairman Jenny Wang Lee Peng were present.

Citing housing project approval as another aspect that will be looked into, Mohamad said: "We need to speed up the process as the longer the waiting, it will add costs to a project as developers have to pay interest to the bank," he said.

The three-day Mapex 2016 offers 2,190 residential units and commercial properties worth RM1.98 billion.

Themed "Home Ownership through Smart Financing", 18 housing developers housing and a local bank are taking part in the expo. - Bernama