

# DBKL's development fee discount to help construction sector

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THE 50% discount on development fee offered to developers in Kuala Lumpur is hoped to inject momentum into the construction sector that has been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa said the discount by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) that started on June 1 was open to all types of development. The offer ends on May 31 next year.

"We recognise the crucial role that private developers play in building the economy.

"This incentive is hoped to

encourage more developments to kick off soon, which in turn will help spur economic growth and promote job creations."

He said 36 development projects with a gross development value of RM35.9mil had been approved.

Out of this amount, he said DBKL had granted some RM137mil in development fee discount.

Annuar said DBKL would also expedite the approval process for development orders as well as building and engineering plans that could usually take up to 36 months.

"The delay in getting the necessary approvals will incur addition-

al costs for developers.

"As a result, those costs are often transferred to buyers," he said.

He, however, said rules such as public engagement sessions and environmental impact assessment would remain.

"The existing legal provisions and by-laws will apply as usual. We can cut down on red tape without doing away with the necessary conditions," he added.

On safety aspects at construction sites, Annuar said it was not satisfactory, drawing attention to the recent spate of Covid-19 cases among foreign workers at

such sites.

"Developers must comply with the proper standards when building hostels for workers.

"We must ensure safe living conditions for all workers, including foreign labour," he reiterated.

He said proper maintenance of the drainage at construction sites was vital to prevent flash floods in the city.

"Developers must ensure that debris from the sites do not end up in the surrounding drains as this can cause water overflow," he said, adding that they should also ensure that on-site retention ponds were functional.

Annuar was speaking to reporters after a town hall session with developers in Kuala Lumpur. Also present were his deputy Datuk Seri Dr Santhara Kumar and Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Mahadi Che Ngah.

Separately, Annuar said DBKL was identifying rundown areas and dilapidated buildings in the city for redevelopment.

"We will locate the owners and secure their agreements to redevelop the area.

"We are also open to any proposals from the private sector interested to develop suitable areas," he said. *(For more details on this, see story on page 3).*