

# A quarter century of work on housing

Cagamas Holdings Bhd launched its book entitled *Housing the Nation: Policies, Issues & Prospects* yesterday in a ceremony officiated by Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

The publication serves to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Cagamas and to document the present realities of the housing sector and concerns in housing policies. The book also contributes towards a greater understanding of Cagamas' role in realising its mission to promote the broader spread of homeownership and the growth of the secondary mortgage market in Malaysia.

As a follow-up to the first edition entitled *Housing the Nation: A Definitive Study* published in 1997, this publication brings together 34 authors from the public and private sector including academia and civil society to capture the developments and issues, both present and future, in the housing industry.

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— DATUK OOI  
SANG KUANG



Among the areas covered include Cagamas' role in promoting home ownership and the development of the capital market, housing needs, policies, administration and related

laws as well as contributory factors affecting housing such as infrastructure, labour and environmental sustainability.

The chairman of Cagamas Holdings, Datuk Ooi Sang Kuang said, "Cagamas, in its almost 27 years of existence is proud to have played a pivotal role in facilitating the spread of home ownership among Malaysians. From an initial purchase of conventional housing loans of RM100mil in 1987, Cagamas had by end of December 2013 cumulatively refinanced housing loans in the secondary market equivalent to 1.7 million houses.

"It is hoped that the contents of the book will be a catalyst for more open discussions and debates, which will ultimately lead to better formulation of housing policies. It is also my hope that this book will contribute towards a greater understanding of the role of Cagamas in realising our mission."