

BNM: M'sia committed to providing adequate housing

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is committed to providing adequate housing as well as ensuring affordability, habitability and accessibility, said Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) deputy governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour.

In his opening remarks at a Cagamas-World Bank Group conference on affordable housing, he said it was of utmost importance that BNM consider the principles of sound and prudent financial management in this undertaking.

"We cannot, in good conscience, overburden and cause anyone to enter into financial difficulty in pursuit of owning a home. This fundamentally goes against the intention of owning a house. "Therefore, based on the principles of fairness, justice and prudence, it is necessary for us to be absolutely clear on what 'affordable' means," he said.

Abdul Rasheed added that affordability was a function of two things: the income of the individual and the price of the house.

"It is crucial that the percentage of income spent to service the mortgage does not go beyond the person's financial capacity, and that they are able to pay for other obligations on top of this commitment," he said. - Bernama