



22 AUG, 2019

MORE MALAYSIANS CAN OWN HOMES

New Straits Times, Malaysia



REHDA

MORE MALAYSIANS CAN OWN HOMES

Bank Negara eases eligibility criteria for its RM1 billion fund to benefit first-time home owners

AMIR HISYAM RASID
 KUALA LUMPUR
 news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIAN households earning less than RM4,360 monthly can soon have access to Bank Negara Malaysia's RM1 billion fund for affordable homes to finance their first home that costs less than RM300,000.

Bank Negara has expanded the fund's eligibility criteria in which maximum monthly household income will be increased to RM4,360 from RM2,300 and



Bank Negara Malaysia Governor Datuk Nor Shamsiah Mohd Yunus speaking at the launch of Khidmat Nasihat Pembiayaan in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY NURUL SHAFINA JEMENON

maximum property price to RM300,000 from RM150,000.

Bank Negara Governor Datuk Nor Shamsiah Mohd Yunus said this was the central bank's measure to assist a larger targeted group to own their first home.

"The RM300,000 house price is in line with the definition of affordable housing according to the National Affordable Housing Policy," she said at the launch of Khidmat Nasihat Pembiayaan (MyKNP) here.

The enhancements will take effect from Sept 1.

The scheme, launched in January, is expected to benefit first-time home owners who, otherwise would not be able to afford a home due to financial constraints and loan eligibility.

AmBank, Bank Simpanan Nasional, CIMB Bank Bhd, Malayan Banking Bhd and RHB Bank Bhd are providing the financing at a lower rate of 3.5 per cent.

BNM Assistant Governor Adnan Zaylani Mohamad Zahid said there were 700 applications for the fund, with 296 successful applicants.

Ninety-four applications were rejected, while the rest were being processed.

Shamsiah said financing approval rates had been stable as financial institutions continued to provide financing to viable businesses and eligible borrowers, even in a challenging economic environment.

"Financing, overall, was consis-

tent with the current economic growth rate of 4.9 per cent in the second quarter of 2019."

Net financing in the second quarter of this year grew by 5.6 per cent on an annual basis, she added.

Shamsiah said the issuance of loans to all segments continued to support the economy.

"Small- and medium-sized enterprises continue to receive financing support and this is proven by higher financing disbursements for the first half of this year to RM152 billion compared with RM149 billion for the same period last year."

Financial institutions also continue to support homeownership, with the approval of new housing loans amounting to RM78.5 billion for the first six months of the year, benefiting more than 180,000 borrowers, she added.

"What is noteworthy is the ability of homeowners to repay housing financing and this is still a major challenge for them."



22 AUG, 2019

MORE MALAYSIANS CAN OWN HOMES

New Straits Times, Malaysia



Page 2 of 2

SUMMARIES

Bank Negara eases eligibility criteria for its RM1 billion fund to benefit first-time home owners

MALAYSIAN households earning less than RM4,360 monthly can soon have access to Bank Negara Malaysia's RM1 billion fund for affordable homes to finance their first home that costs less than RM300,000.