2027 BUDGET

HBA shuts the door on wishlists



The National House Buyers Association says repeated calls for stronger homebuyer protection and tougher enforcement have failed to receive sufficient attention. NSTP FILE PIC

KUALA LUMPUR: The National House Buyers Association (HBA) has dropped its annual wishlist for the 2027 Budget, saying repeated calls for stronger homebuyer protection and tougher enforcement have failed to receive sufficient attention.

After years of submitting wishlists and recommendations to successive budgets, HBA is throwing in the towel for the 2027 Budget, said its honorary secretary-general Datuk Chang Kim Loong.

THE REASON?

Chang said HBA is tired of repeating the same calls for stronger homebuyer protection, tougher enforcement, more affordable housing and action against sick and abandoned housing projects without seeing meaningful results.

He said HBA believes the government should focus on the fundamentals: protecting homebuyers, preventing abandoned housing projects, enforcing existing laws and improving housing affordability.

"The minister got his priorities wrong from our perspective," he said.

He also questioned the focus on introducing new legislation and regulatory frameworks when, in HBA's view, existing laws and enforcement mechanisms have yet to address long-standing problems faced by homebuyers.

HBA's position, Chang said, is this: fix what is broken before creating something new.

"There is little point in producing another beautifully prepared wishlist if the people who are supposed to act on it are not listening," he said.

For the 2027 Budget, HBA's message is therefore blunt: nothing to wish for, just listen to what homebuyers have been saying for years.

"Less rhetoric, fewer new layers, more effective and serious implementation and enforcement of the laws," Chang said.