

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

# 'COORDINATING POLICY INITIATIVES'

Central authority  
can build stronger  
collaboration with  
partners, says BNM

## KUALA LUMPUR

**B**ANK Negara Malaysia (BNM) has called for a central authority to lead, oversee and coordinate affordable housing initiatives for the country to promote greater strategic and operational cohesion at the national level.

Deputy governor Shaik Abdul Rasheed Abdul Ghaffour said a sound, innovative and coordinated public policy was central to addressing the affordable housing challenge.

"Among others, the central authority can help regulate processes that increase the cost of supplying affordable homes by reviewing and streamlining it.

"It can also spearhead more effective communications and build stronger collaboration with key partners to advance the affordable housing agenda," he said at the Dialogue on Sustainable Development of Affordable Housing, at Sasana Kijang, here, on Tuesday.

According to Shaik Abdul Rasheed, more can be done to increase awareness and further improve the take-up rate for fi-

nancial assistance programmes introduced by the government such as the My First Home Scheme, Housing Credit Guarantee Scheme, First Home Deposit Scheme, Flexible Financing Scheme for PRIMA home buyers and the Flexible Financing Scheme for PRIMA home buyers.

The dialogue was moderated by Cagamas Holdings Bhd chairman Nik Mohd Hasyudeen Yusoff and featured World Bank representative Abhas K. JHA, Practice

Manager, Urban and Disaster Risk Management, East Asia and Pacific, as well as Datuk Abdul Rahim Ishak, director-general of the National Housing Department.

Other participants were Datuk Charon Mokhzani, executive director of Khazanah Nasional Bhd and managing director of Khazanah Research Institute, and Chang Kim Loong, honorary secretary-general of the National House Buyers Association of Malaysia. **Bernamea**



*Bank Negara Malaysia says more can be done to raise awareness and further improve the take-up rate for financial assistance programmes introduced by the government. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD*