



PRESS RELEASE

PS181203JR

PRESS STATEMENT BY NATIONAL HOUSE BUYERS ASSOCIATION [HBA]

The fundamental power of the Tribunal for Home Buyer Claims ('Housing Tribunal') has been confirmed by the Court of Appeal. The successful appeal against the decision of the High Court's Judges in allowing the Developers' application for Judicial Review could only be seen as a progressive and promising step towards the successful implementation of the Housing Tribunal. This could not have been more timely as house buyers' sentiment is on the mend towards adequate protection for them. For too long, the ordinary house buyers who cannot afford legal representatives in lengthy court cases have been forced into submission/subdued.

It is a triumph for all house buyers and HBA hailed that justice had prevailed. **It's a new chapter for house buyers' protection.**

It is unprecedented to see the noble gathering of the housing legal eagles holding the same legal opinion with the Attorney General's Chambers and pooling their resources together, who believe to see justice and to stand up for the man in the street and to support the laws of our country. It relates to our Government efforts of a caring society to come up with more laws for the protection of the public in the housing related industry. The Government has shown their seriousness in this case by assigning the Attorney-General Y. Bahagia Datuk Seri Abd. Gani Patail and Puan Umi Kaltom, their Senior Federal Counsel 1 to undertake the task of upholding the laws.

HBA is most gratified to the numerous volunteer lawyers who have put public interest above self and had committed their valuable time to support this noble cause and have brought relief to the aggrieved house buyers.

With this experience, existing and potential, house buyers would be more cautious when dealing with Developers. It irks house buyers when certain Developers choose not to pay on their dues and short change them of their entitlement. By doing so, they are making enemies of house buyers and this cannot be good for them because they are in the business and need to sell more houses in the long term.

We urge developers to act on valid claims made by house buyers and if they are financially constrained, they should approach their customers to negotiate a reasonable term of deferred payments or other forms of compensation. Most importantly, we hope that the Developers will accept the outcome of the Court and respect its decision. Best of all, the Tribunal can resume its work that they have been formulated for its purpose.

Chang Kim Loong
Secretary General
National House Buyers Association