



Datuk Paduka Daim admiring an item on display after opening an art exhibition at Menara Maybank yesterday. With him are Bank Negara deputy governor, Datuk Dr Lin See Yañ, Maybank chairman Tan Sri Hashim Aman and artist Syed Ahmad Jamal.

Ex-Govt staff may get cheaper loans

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The Government will consider lowering the interest rates for housing loans for former civil servants, Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin said today.

Civil servants who leave the service are charged commercial rates, ranging from nine to 11 per cent, instead of the normal four to five per cent for their housing loans.

Cuepacs, the umbrella organisation for trade unions in the civil service, is appealing on their behalf.

When asked to comment on this, Datuk Paduka Daim said: "We will study the matter. We will be fair to all."

He was speaking to reporters after opening the "Perdana Maybank '88" art

exhibition at Menara Maybank here.

Speaking at the opening, he called on banks to help youths develop art as a career by appointing resident artists.

He said banks could sponsor talented youths for training courses to develop them further before appointing them as resident artists.

He urged private firms and other financial institutions to promote art as a form of cultural development.

He suggested that private companies use local art in decorating their offices. This would provide local works with more exposure.

He praised Malayan Banking Berhad for providing an art gallery at its head-

quarters where local artists could display their works.

Although there were six galleries in the city, he said, they were small in size and there was still a shortage of exhibition space for budding artists.

He hoped other financial institutions could emulate the bank and set aside some space for local art exhibitions.

The 22-day exhibition brings together a collection of contemporary art by 32 Malaysian artists.

Most of the works on display are for sale at between \$600 and \$30,000 each.

This is the third exhibition to be held at the Maybank art gallery since it was opened recently.