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HEADLINE: Chai Leng market to be repaired

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BODY:

BUTTERWORTH, Thurs. - The Housing and Local Government Ministry has allocated RM520,000 to improve the Chai Leng Park wet market, drains and backlanes in the area, its Minister, Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, said today.

He said RM320,000 was for improvements to the market while the rest was for upgrading of drains and tarring of backlanes.

He was speaking to reporters after visiting the housing scheme in Prai with the Barisan Nasional candidate in the Bagan by-election, Yeoh Khoo Chooi.

Ting said Yeoh and the people of Chai Leng Park had asked him to visit the area as it faced some infrastructural problems.

He said the aid was a short-term measure to overcome the problem of flooding and a somewhat unkempt market.

As a long-term measure to overcome the flood problem, Ting said the Seberang Prai Municipal Council (MPSP) was preparing a drainage upgrading plan that would be implemented "as soon as possible".

Yeoh chipped in to say that the Government was looking into the possibility of building a double-storey structure to house the wet market on the ground floor and a hawker complex on top at Chai Leng Park.

He hoped this could come through under the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

Yeoh also said the MPSP had agreed to reduce parking meter charge hours from the proposed 8am to 10pm to 8am to 6pm.

Until this was gazetted, the MPSP would suspend implementation of the parking meter system, he announced.

Yeoh also said the MPSP would suspend its decision to introduce one-way streets in the housing scheme following requests from residents and will instead restudy the traffic situation there.

Ting visited the wet market, where work to tile the floor and upgrade the ceiling had begun, and hawker stalls before inspecting the drains, some of which were badly clogged and broken.

Urging Bagan voters to vote for Yeoh, Ting said a vote for Yeoh was a vote for development, racial harmony, unity, democracy, moderation and, most important, the well-being of the people of Bagan.

"A vote against the DAP is a vote against destruction, dictatorship, extremism and disunity," he added.

Yeoh is involved in a three-cornered fight with the DAP's Lim Hock Seng and independent Tan Kee Chye.

Ting defended MCA Ministers and elected representatives who have been criticised by the DAP for inspecting drains, by saying that this was part of the job of an elected representative.

He said DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang only promoted his son. During the last sitting of Parliament, he added, out of 14 opportunities given to the DAP to make adjournment speeches, 12 were made by Lim's son Guan Eng.

Ting said: "What about the other DAP leaders such as Karpal Singh? Lim is only promoting his son. Isn't this a dictatorship?"

GRAPHIC: Bagan by-election 1995. Picture - Getting to know you ... Yeoh shaking hands with three-year-old Ong Kheng H'ng during his campaign rounds in Chai Leng Park yesterday.-By E.T. Koay.

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