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Ting-Firemen

FIRST REPLACEMENT TEAM TO LEAVE FOR SUMATERA BY WEDNESDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- The first batch of 300 fire-fighters' replacement team will leave for Sumatera by Wednesday, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

The 1,210 firemen currently in Sumatera and Kalimantan would be replaced within 10 days, he told reporters after chairing the Selangor MCA meeting in Puchong Jaya, near here. Dr Ting is the Selangor MCA chief.

He said the cost to send the firemen to Indonesia which amounted to millions of ringgit would be borne by the government.

He said the government in appreciation of the sacrifices of the firemen would present them with commendation certificates on their return.

Malaysian fire-fighters were sent to Indonesia on Sept 24 to help the Indonesian authorities to put out the raging forest fires in that country which caused the haze to envelop several countries in this region particularly Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore.

Dr Ting also said the Selangor MCA passed a resolution in its meeting today to support the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in tackling the country's economic problems.

He was confident that the problems would not prolong as the country's economic fundamentals were strong.

He urged MCA members to complement the government's austerity drive by exercising prudence in their spending.

He also said the Selangor MCA had decided to appoint more women to district and municipal councils in line with the party's policy to increase the participation of women to 30 per cent in the next 15 years.

To realise the objective, the party leadership had decided to have 15 per cent women representatives in local authorities by 1999, he said.

He said of the 71 MCA district and municipal councillors in Selangor, only four were women.

He also said Selangor MCA would carry out three major projects next year including the adoption scheme under the party's Langkawi Project to sponsor poor pupils from rural areas and a programme to honour teachers.

Community services under the Langkawi Project by students from the Tunku Abdul Rahman College would be carried out in 43 new villages in Selangor, he added. -- BERNAMA

SCY TS