

MCA: Consider PR for foreign wives

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By **NORAZIAN
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KUALA LUMPUR: The MCA has appealed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister, to consider giving permanent resident (PR) status to foreign women married to Malaysians.

MCA Public Services and Complaints Department head Michael Chona said priority should be given to couples who already had children from such marriages.

He said some foreign women had been married to locals for more than 10

years but were still on social visit passes, adding that there were many couples facing this problem.

"The Government can consider giving PR status on a case-by-case basis, with those having children given priority," he told a press conference at Wisma MCA here yesterday.

He said many foreign wives suffered in silence when they ran into problems, especially when their husbands had affairs with other women, as they were dependent on their husbands for renewing their passes.

Chong said they would be forced to leave the

country and part with their children if their husbands did not support the renewal of their visit passes.

Citing a recent case, Chong said a Filipino woman with three children aged five, three, and two had sought the help of the department after her husband went missing early this month.

He said the woman, Elma O. Magallanes, 24, said her husband Wan Yen Lian, 35, had packed some clothes and left at Sam purportedly to go to Sarawak.

"She is worried because her pass expires on Feb 28 and she needs her hus-

band to sponsor her to extend her pass.

Chong said Magallanes was staying at a house in Cheras belonging to her late father-in-law and had ran up electricity bills totalling RM3,000 and RM500 in water bills.

He said on top of this, Magallanes, who married Wan in 1993, could not get any job and had been asked to vacate the house within one week.

Her two younger children also did not have birth certificates, he said.

Chong hoped Wan or any one who knew of his whereabouts to contact him at 03-263-2305 or the nearest police station.