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Mustapa calls for review of SEDCs' functions

IPOH, Mon. - State governments need to review the functions of their State Economic Development Corporations as some of the functions are overlapping those of other State agencies.

Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said the matter should be dealt with by the Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers so that the SEDCs had a clear idea of their roles.

Mustapa said some SEDCs had even deviated by involving themselves in activities handled by other agencies.

These included venturing into agriculture projects which in some States were also being handled by the State Agricultural Development Corporations.

"The Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers should deliberate on the functions of their SEDCs so that there is co-ordination," he said, adding that this was necessary as SEDCs were set up under State enactments and under the chairmanship of the Menteris Besar.

Speaking to reporters during the coffee break of a meeting of SEDC chief operating officers here, Mustapa said the Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers needed to look into the matter.

Elaborating on the issue, Mustapa, who chaired the meeting, said when the SEDCs were set up 30 years ago, their functions were mainly to act as catalysts and to boost economic activities in the States.

However over the years, the State governments had set up new agencies and also various funds and their functions were often similar to that of the SEDCs.

Mustapa said all SEDCs had been directed by his ministry to concentrate on increasing the middle-class Bumiputera population, in line with the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for efforts to increase the middle-class Bumiputera population.

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