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Parliament-Housing

GOVT TO MOVE AMENDMENT BILL IN MARCH FOR HOUSING TRIBUNAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- An amendment bill will be tabled in March next year to pave the way for the establishment of a tribunal to resolve housing problems between developers and buyers, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Housing and Local Government Deputy Minister Datuk Peter Chin indicated that the proposed tribunal could be a reality upon passage of amendments to existing legislations by the next Dewan Rakyat sitting.

He was replying to Lee Kah Choon (BN-Jelutong) during question time.

To a supplementary question from Dr Tan Seng Giaw (Dap-Kepong), Chin said that for the moment it was difficult to implement the build-and-sell concept because of the sizeable number of homes planned and targeted for sale.

"While the concept is not yet suitable for implementation now this does not mean that it will not be implemented at all," Chin said.

The Vision School is a concept which groups the national and Chinese as well as Tamil national type schools in one area with pupils sharing the same school facilities.

However each of the schools would continue to use its respective medium of instruction --- national schools (Malay language), Chinese schools (Mandarin) and Tamil schools (Tamil Language).

The Government had given an assurance that this would not affect the identity of each of the schools but was aimed at bringing the various races closer through more interaction.

The Prime Minister said the government was aware of the need to build more Chinese schools in the country in view of the increasing Chinese population.

"So we have to have schools and at the same time we will have to think of our country's future with people of the various races living together, starting at the school level," he said.

In this way, the various races in Malaysia would be able to maintain good relations, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said he would continue with his criticism of extremists in this country, be they Malays, Chinese or Indians as Malaysia had no place for extremists.

He said the Chinese education extremists formed only a small group but they had acted as though they wanted to threaten the government.

Members of this group were acting as though they did not acknowledge themselves as Malaysian citizens and the need for them to mix with Malaysians of other races, he said.

"They want everything to be segregated...Chinese schools to be separated from other schools to the extent of Chinese schools becoming foreign schools and not schools within Malaysia."

"Chinese schools in Malaysia are Malaysian schools even though they use Chinese as the medium of instruction," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government would not abort the Vision School project just as it did not drop the plan to have university students of various races staying together as this also represented part of the integration process.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AHH AAM