

Putrajaya a local authority by itself, says ministry

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PUTRAJAYA is a local authority by itself and enforces its own building by-laws, including the issuance of Certificate of Fitness (CF) to developers.

Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Peter Chin said as such, the administrative capital did not come under the purview of his ministry.

"Housing in the capital is developed by Putrajaya Holdings, which by itself is a local authority.

"According to the chairman of Putrajaya Holdings, it has managed to resolve the slow issuance of CFs to houses in the capital," he said when replying to a point raised by Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar (PAS - Tumpat).

On Saturday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had complained of "feeling lonely" in Putrajaya, as residents could not move into their homes because many of them had no CFs.

Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said the ministry had recently requested Bank Negara to make it easier to apply for loans under the Special Tourism Fund.

"This will help companies to invest in small and medium-sized tourism projects, such as accommodation and tourism related products," she said.

Following the Sept 11 attacks in New York, tourist arrivals, said Dr Ng, had dipped by 19.4% from 1.15 million in August to 927,206 in September.

"But this is still higher than the figure achieved in September last year," she said.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad said the ministry was reviewing whether to allow widows who remarried to claim Socso benefits as well.