

# New council set up to balance urban and rural development

SUN - 3 DEC 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun: The National Physical Planning Council will come into effect next year to ensure a more balanced urban and rural development planning in the country.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said the council will be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the deputy chairman's post will be filled by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said the Urban and Rural Planning Development department director-general will act as the council's secretary.

"We amended the Town and Country Act 1976 during the last parliament session to include the establishment of the council," he told reporters after launching the World of Chinese Books 2001 exhibition yesterday.

He said the establishment of the council will ensure better planning with frequent consultations between 'federal, state and local governments.

Earlier, Ong launched the exhibition held at the Malaysia International Exhibition and Convention Centre at the Mines Resort City, Seri Kembangan.

The nine-day exhibition is jointly organised by Mines Exhibition Management Sdn Bhd, *Sin Chew Jit Poh* and Malaysian Headmasters Association.