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Council to monitor land usage for town planning

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - A National Physical Planning Council chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be formed early next year to enhance co-ordination between the Federal and State Governments in monitoring land usage, thus ensuring a more systematic planning of towns.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said today, the formation of the council was made possible by the recent amendments to the Town and Rural Planning Act 1976.

"Other members of the council include Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who sits in as deputy chairman and the Town and Rural Planning director-general who serves as its secretary."

Ong was speaking after opening the "World of Chinese Books" exhibition at the Malaysia International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Seri Kembangan, near here.

The nine-day event is aimed at highlighting the use of books as an essential material in building a refined and cultured society, and in cultivating a knowledgeable younger generation of Malaysians.

It is jointly organised by the MINES Exhibition Management Sdn Bhd, Sin Chew Jit Poh and the Malaysian Headmasters' Union.

There are more than 300 booths featuring exhibitors including the Popular Book Store, The Shanghai Book Company and Life Publishers.

Ong also reminded local councillors against abusing their position as members of their respective municipal councils for personal gains.

He said it was improper for local councillors to print call cards bearing the logo of their council and later use them for transacting business or to solicit other favours.

DAP Assemblyman Danny Law Heng Kiang was reported to have accused two Penang municipal councillors of breaching ethics by including the words "Penang Island Municipal Council" in their business call cards.

He said the cards bearing the council and company names, belong to two Gerakan representatives in the State.

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