

22/10/2001

Master plan on infrastructure to ensure sustainable growth

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - A master plan that will co-ordinate all infrastructure projects to ensure sustainable growth for the country is being drafted by the Housing and Local Government Ministry.

Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said today the National Spatial Plan, drawn up by the Town and Country Planning Department, would be ready by August next year.

He said the Plan involves amendments to laws on town and country planning as well as a review of all local government structural plans.

He said the Cabinet has set up a Physical Planning Council chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed to oversee the preparation and implementation of the Plan.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is the deputy chairman while the ministry representative acts as the secretary of the council.

Ong said the Plan will ensure the monitoring of development activities "is done effectively" and take into consideration matters such as environmental protection.

Previously, monitoring was done at the district level and had caused problems such as redundancy of projects.

He cited development projects in the Klang Valley. "Now, Kuala Lumpur has its own master plan while the surrounding districts belonging to Selangor also have their own master plans.

"In the past, due to lack of co-ordination, some bordering areas implemented development projects that did not complement each other. In some cases, this caused overcrowding," he said at the ministry's sports carnival at Stadium Selayang.

Meanwhile, Ong welcomed the allocation of RM2.03 billion for the ministry under Budget 2002.

"A sum of RM943 million has been allocated for low-cost housing projects and this includes RM143 million to be lent to State Governments to implement 124 projects."

To meet housing needs in urban areas, RM793 million has been allocated for "rakyat" housing programmes. The houses will be rented out to the lower income group.

Some RM1.08 billion has been allocated for the construction of quarters for armed forces and police personnel as well as civil servants.

(END)