

26 OCT 2002

Isa-Nilai

MAKE NILAI, GEMAS SEPARATE DISTRICTS, FEDERAL GOVT TOLD

SEREMBAN, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- The Negeri Sembilan Government will ask the Federal Government to make Nilai and Gemas as separate districts, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said today.

He said a formal application would be made to the Federal Government after all transactions on the matter have been completed.

"Nilai is now under the Seremban Municipal Council. The Seremban district now is too big and there is a need for Nilai to be a separate district council.

"There is an increase in population growth in this area due to the rapid development in this district," he told reporters after launching Bayu Lakehomes Carnival 2002 and handing over of keys to housebuyers of the housing scheme.

Present were Datuk Mohd Zuki Kamaluddin, Chairman of Island and Peninsula Berhad, the developer of Bayu Lakehomes, and Managing Director Dr Radzuan Abdul Rahman.

Mohamed Isa said Gemas is now a sub-district and it should be made a full-fledge district.

Asked on the government's move to stop giving per capita grants to Sekolah Agama Rakyat as announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, he said it was a right decision as government financial aid should be used for learning and teaching of Islam.

He said the State Islamic Religious Department would investigate the schools that abused the grants.

The schools should perform the task entrusted upon them with sincerity, he said.

"If they are dishonest and opposed the government, they should not have taken the government's financial aid all this while," he said.

So far, none of the Sekolah Agama Rakyat in Negeri Sembilan had been found to have misused the funds but investigations would be carried out to find out the actual situation, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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