

Govt mulls transfer of 'deadwood' local council staff

by Arion Yeow
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

SUN 3 JUN 2003

KUALA LUMPUR: In an immediate response to address the rot in the local councils, the government is mulling the transfer of "deadwood" staff.

Towards this end, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said yesterday his ministry is proposing to amend the Local Government Act 1976.

The changes, if implemented, will allow staff to be transferred between local authorities within a state.

However, he was reluctant to confirm the viability of the idea as "it may affect the federal constitution", but he said his ministry has discussed the matter with the Attorney-General.

Ong was commenting on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that corrupt local authority employees could be sacked.

The issue came to light after Ampang Jaya Municipal Council enforcement chief Abdul Kudus **Ahmad** was sacked for not declaring that he was bankrupt.

He is also being probed by the Anti-Corruption Agency on allegations that he took bribes to tip off "tontos" on raids.

Ong said the proposal is to allow non-performing officers who are not doing anything wrong but are not doing their jobs either, to be transferred somewhere else.

As local staff are appointed by the state, the ministry can only act against errant staff with the cooperation of the state government, he told reporters after officiating at a function here.