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Ong-Law

MINISTRY MULLS AMENDING LAW TO TRANSFER LOCAL AUTHORITY STAFF - ONG

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 (Bernama) -- The Housing and Local Government Ministry is studying the possibility of amending the law to enable local authority staff to be transferred to agencies under another local authority in the same state.

Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said at present local authorities came under the jurisdiction of state governments and the ministry could only advise them on implementing certain programmes.

The proposed amendments would pave the way for effective supervision and services in local authority areas besides speeding up approvals for applications, he said.

Local authority employees found to be not discharging their duties according to their work procedures and indulged in corrupt practices would be hauled up for disciplinary action, he said.

"This is part of the efforts we are pursuing. The ministry is actively discussing with the Attorney-General's Chambers to amend the law," he told reporters after launching the Supreme Card, a bonus card issued in collaboration with Nanyang Online and Genting Worldcard Services.

Ong said this when asked to comment on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that corrupt local authority employees could be sacked, citing the case of Ampang Jaya Municipal Council enforcement chief Abdul Kudus Ahmad who was sacked for not declaring that he was a bankrupt.

Ong said the proposed amendments would also have an impact on the laws at federal government level and local authorities.

At present, a local authority employee cannot be transferred to another local authority although the person was a deadwood or unproductive, he said.

Under the amendments, such employees could be moved to another agency under another local authority within the same state to improve the efficiency of a local authority, he said.

Ong also said his ministry would soon issue a set of guidelines on the construction of user-friendly toilets.

He said a committee headed by his deputy Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui was drawing up the guidelines and the mechanism to educate the public on how to keep public toilets clean.

"We also want new building owners and hoteliers to build toilets in accordance with the guidelines which give priority to senior citizens, the handicapped, pregnant women and Muslims," he added.

-- BERNAMA

RAM AHH TS