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Kayveas-Sports

NO LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR DEVELOPERS TO PROVIDE SPORTS FACILITIES

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) -- There are no provisions in the Local Government Act or the Housing Developers Act to compel housing developers to provide sports facilities in areas which they develop.

Housing and Local Government Deputy Minister Datuk M. Kayveas said housing developers were only required to build the children's playground or a small recreation area but not sports facilities like a football field.

"The developers are only required to build playgrounds and houses of worship but it is not compulsory for them to build sports facilities," he told reporters before chairing the Peoples' Progressive Party (PPP) supreme council meeting here today.

The PPP president said this when asked to comment on last Thursday's statement by Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) president Tunku Imran Tuanku Ja'afar that it was imperative for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad or his cabinet to issue a directive to all relevant ministries to accept sports as part of their mandate.

Tunku Imran had pointed out that three ministries -- Education, Defence and Housing and Local Government Ministries, apart from the Youth and Sports Ministry, should play a more prominent role in development of sports in the country.

Tunku Imran's opinion was shared by the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) deputy president Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.

"The Housing and Local Government Ministry must also play its part. Making available parks and fields in every residential area must be emphatically implemented.

"How can kids grow up in a sports culture when they don't have parks to play on, or if their existing fields are being taken away in the name of economic development.

"For every field you take away to set up condos (condominiums) or whatever, you are depriving a sport of hundreds of talents," Tengku Abdullah was quoted as saying in the New Straits Times today.

Kayveas said if there was a cabinet directive, then the Local Government Act and the Housing Developers Act needed to be amended to compel developers to set up sports facilities at housing estates.

"Now swimming pools are build only by developers of apartments but in normal housing estates there are no sports facilities...may be just a jogging track but nothing much.

"If we are serious in making sports more effective then the development should be full fledged. If the cabinet gives the nod then we will go ahead and amend the Act but we have to seek the views of the developers as well," he added.

-- BERNAMA

SR KHY ZUL