

05/06/2003

Carry out duties without fear, Ong tells local councils

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting today reminded local authorities to carry out their duties without fear or favour.

Ong said local councils should take heed of the Cabinet's directive to improve the effectiveness of their enforcement and be transparent in their actions.

"Don't be selective in your actions. This goes for all enforcement agencies," Ong said at a Press conference after launching the Town and Country Planning Administration and Laws encyclopaedia.

He said the reminder was not directed at any particular local council.

His statement came in the wake of the suspension of Ampang Jaya Municipal Council's enforcement chief Kapt (rtd) Abdul Kudus Ahmad, pending investigations that he allegedly accepted bribes from "tontos" (lookouts).

Ong also said the National Physical Planning Council to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would hold its first meeting on June 23.

The meeting will discuss the National Spatial Plan announced in October 2001 which is aimed at streamlining and balancing development projects in the country.

The plan will provide clear divisions on land and development authority between Federal and State Governments and local councils.