

Amended Acts to be enforced soon

THE amended Criminal Procedure Code and Penal Code will come into force on Jan 1 next year.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said it would take time for the two Acts to be enforced as they had to ensure that the infrastructure for the community service programme was ready.

"We have to solve the teething problems first and ensure the facilities are ready nationwide," he said during the committee stage debate on the Budget in the House yesterday.

The Acts had been tabled and approved by Parliament in

August and gazetted on Oct 5 this year.

Nazri said that after the Acts had been given the Royal Assent; they received a request from Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil to include community service as a form of punishment.

"The system is already in place if the punishment invokes a jail sentence or a fine, but there is no structure in place for community service," Nazri said, adding that the police were also being notified of the changes to the Act.

"That is why it took so long.

There is no point in enforcing the law if the facilities are not in place."

On the Independent Police Complaints and Conducts Commission, Nazri said the Attorney-General's Chambers was in the midst of drafting the bill.

"Once the Bill is drafted, it will be brought to the Cabinet for consideration and appropriate decision," he said, adding that meetings were being held with the relevant agencies on the matter.

Nazri said they were studying similar models from countries such as Australia, Canada and Britain.