

# Selangor different from states, says Khir

BANTING: Assemblymen in Selangor should be allowed to retain their councillorship, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.

He said problems would arise when assemblymen had difficulty channelling the people's grouses to the local government.

"Selangor is developing and there are many complaints on infrastructure, such as on potholes; clogged drains and non functioning streetlights.

"It would be more difficult if they (state assemblymen) are

outside (the council)," he told reporters after attending the Hari Raya open house hosted by Sijangkang state assemblyman Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar yesterday.

Dr Khir urged the federal government to consider the situation in Selangor which differed from other states.

"I know the Cabinet has yet to make any decision (on the position of assemblymen serving as councillors) and the Housing and Local Government is still collecting details. I just want to say Selangor is differ-

ent," he said.

Dr Khir hoped other state assemblymen serving as councillors would not be dropped from their council posts because of one case", referring to the case of Port Klang assemblyman Zakaria Md Deros who quit as councillor on Thursday.

Zakaria, who was embroiled in a controversy for building his mansion without approval from the Klang Municipal Council, had been advised by the Umno supreme council to withdraw as councillor.

At the open house, Abdul

Fatah, who is also Kuala Langat Umno division chairman, said any disagreement among Barisan Nasional party components at the local government level should be discussed internally. "Sensitive matters can be brought up during table discussion because we already have Barisan committees at the division, state and federal levels," he said.

In Penang, state Umno deputy chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Rashid Abdullah said he would comment about the two Penang municipal councillors

who were often absent from full council meetings only after getting a the relevant reports. Abdul Rashid, who is also the deputy chief minister, was commenting on a report in *The Star* over the poor attendance record of Datuk Ahmad Ismail and Shah Headan Ayob Shah.

Asked whether any action would be taken against the two over their dismal attendance record, Abdul Rashid said:

"Why are you asking about action? It is too early to talk about this. *Nak buat kacau buat apa?* (why stir things up?)"