

# Need for more green laws

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## Legislation will help push environmental agenda, says Azmi

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Unless more environmental laws are passed and implemented to anchor green issues such as recycling and solid waste management, preserving the environment will remain an uphill task.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid said that, if he had his way, he would like all kinds of pro-green laws and measures to be implemented.

"But let's face it, even when it comes to recycling activities, they are all fragmented and not coordinated and limited to non-governmental organisations or individual companies," he said in an interview.

»If they go to the market, they should use baskets«

DATUK SERI AZMI KHALID

Azmi said that until a few laws (such as the Solid Waste Management Bill) were amended or passed, recycling could not be done in a big way.

"When we put the laws in place, only then can we award waste col-



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lection concessionaires long-term contracts," he said.

Azmi said the Government could make it compulsory for the concessionaires to carry out recycling by including this in the long-term contracts.

He added that another law the ministry was looking at was making all those involved in the recycling sequence jointly responsible for

"trashy" (sub-standard) recycling work.

In the meantime, Azmi urged housewives to help, saying they were an important factor for recycling to work in the homes.

"If they go to the market, they should use baskets. If you buy dry items, put them in the basket and not in plastic," he said.

Azmi said the ministry also wanted to find ways to introduce biodegradable plastics and teach shops not to freely issue plastic bags.



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