

'Indecent' dressing: Fine will create unease

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday said the decision by the Kota Baru municipal council to impose fines on Muslim and non-Muslim women who wore clothes deemed to be revealing would only create uneasiness among the people.

"We are already facing problems in terms of interpretation on what constitutes indecent dressing. This (move) will only create uneasiness and unhappiness among certain quarters or groups."

The deputy prime minister also said the council should not simply enforce the provision as it could curtail individual freedom.

"They (the council) should not get overly excited to act based on their own interpretation."

He was commenting on the council's move to fine women working in retail outlets and restaurants who wear clothes deemed to be revealing.

An English daily reported that the council would no longer tolerate indecent dressing by women, both Muslim and non-Muslim.

Its public relations officer Mohd Azman Daham was quoted as saying that under local council by-laws, women who dressed sexily or indecently could be fined up to RM500.

Speaking after chairing the National Land Council meeting at his office, Najib added that he hoped the council would not use the move as an excuse to act indiscriminately against women.

Najib said the long-awaited amend-

ments to the Strata Title Act 1985 would be tabled for the first reading in Parliament soon.

He added that maintenance and building of infrastructure in the gated community would be undertaken jointly by developers and the local authorities.

Najib also said the amendments would expedite issuance of strata titles to developers.

"Developers must apply for strata titles within six months after the certificate of completion and compliance is issued."

He said the council was satisfied with the performance of the flying squad, established to carry out specific jobs related to land matters, including the demarcation of borders and collection of land taxes.

He said the squad achieved 100 per cent success in registering business and non-business dealings. It also succeeded in resolving 325,744 cases of owners who failed to pay outstanding taxes.

On Typhoon Durian, Najib said those living along coastal areas, especially in Kelantan and Terengganu, must always make it a point to listen to the weather forecast in view of the bad weather and strong waves expected this week.

A danger alert has been issued to all shipping, fishing and ferry services in the northern states of Peninsula Malaysia.

Although Durian is veering towards southern Thailand, the northern states are experiencing high waves and stormy weather.