

**Parliament: Local Authorities Owe Solid Waste Management Concessionaires
RM357 Million
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- The amount of local authorities' outstanding arrears with companies given concessions for solid waste disposal as at Dec 31, 2010 is amounting to RM357 million, the Dewan Rakyat was told Monday.

Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin said the amount comprised both the outstanding arrears for solid waste management and public cleanliness during the interim period.

"At present, however, the local authorities have no outstanding debt with the federal government, especially in the implementation of solid waste management and public cleanliness," he said in reply to Datuk Md Sirat Abu (BN-Bukit Katil) during question time.

Md Sirat had wanted to know the amount of local authorities' accumulated debts over the past 10 years, especially in the implementation of solid waste management and public cleanliness.

Lajim said the government would help any local authority which could not afford to pay for the service.

Between 1998 and 2010, a total of RM151.84 million in financial aid had been given to 28 local authorities nationwide, he said.

Meanwhile, when replying to the question from Datuk Rashid Din (PKR-Merbok) on abandoned housing projects, Lajim said between 2009 and Sept 31, 2011, 23 new housing projects had been declared as being abandoned.

As at Sept 30, the government had spent RM3.1 million to rehabilitate abandoned housing projects, namely by injecting fund of RM1.4 million for the projects in Negeri Sembilan and RM1.7 million in Selangor.

He said the Special Task Force on Rehabilitation of Abandoned Housing Projects chaired by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan, would also continue monitoring the projects, together with three working groups focused on the determination of the national housing development policy.

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