

**Rela, Rukun Tetangga Bills Tabled For First Reading At Dewan Rakyat
Bernama
April 17, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 17 (Bernama) -- Two bills which provide for the establishment, duties and powers of People Volunteers Corps (Rela) and Neighbourhood Watch (Rukun Tetangga) were tabled for the first reading at the Dewan Rakyat today.

The Malaysia Volunteers Corps Bill 2012 was tabled by Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop, while the Rukun Tetangga Bill 2012 was tabled by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon.

The Malaysia Volunteers Corps (Rela) Bill 2012, among others, will compel every employer to grant leave for his employee, who is a member of Rela, to undergo training, which shall not exceed 10 days at any one time.

Under the bill, the employer shall not make any deduction from the pay, imposing any penalty or changing the terms and conditions of the employment of the employee during the period of training.

An employer who commits an offence shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding RM6,000.

The duties of every officer and member of Rela as stated in the bill include to assist ant security force or authority upon request, to give assistance to the relevant authority in controlling and diverting motor vehicle, to take part in community service and to assist in protecting building or other property upon request.

A member of Rela, who is on duty, shall also be paid allowances, which will be determined by the Minister after consultation with the Minister of Finance.

Meanwhile, the Rukun Tetangga Bill 2012 is aimed at making provisions relating to Rukun Tetangga and Voluntary Patrolling Scheme (VPS).

Under the bill, a member of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee shall hold office for a term not exceeding two years and shall be eligible for reappointment, but shall not be appointed for more than three consecutive terms unless with the approval of the Director-General.

Those under the age of 18, undischarged bankrupt, convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or fined not less than RM2,000, however, shall be disqualified from appointed as a member of Rukun Tetangga Area Committee.

Functions and duties of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee include to carry out activities to enhance and strengthen neighbourliness, unity, goodwill, harmony, welfare and quality of life amongst the members of the community.

The chairman of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee may apply to the Director-General to

operate a VPS if a request is made to him by a group of not less than 20 residents of the area of not less than 18 years of age.

A member of the VPS shall perform patrol duty or guard duty not more than twice in a month.

The bill also proposed that a member of VPS, who whilst on patrol or guard duty, commits an offence, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding RM2,000 or a maximum jail term of one year, or both, upon conviction.

The offences include giving false information pertaining to any matter, disobeying the lawful order, acting in any manner which is obscene, abusive or insulting, and being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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