

**Dewan Rakyat Approves Strata Titles (Amendment) Bill
Bernama
September 26, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Rakyat Wednesday approved a bill which provides for vacant possession and the strata title to be issued simultaneously instead of separately as was done until now.

The Strata Title (Amendment) Bill 2012 is expected to overcome the problems of applying for and registration strata titles for old buildings occupied before 1996, said Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas said.

The bill is an improvement over the Strata Title Act 1985 which underwent amendments four times, in 1990, 1996, 2001 and 2007.

Uggah said that over the 27 years of implementation of the act, the land administration in the country registered more than 970,000 strata titles pertaining to more than 15,000 multi-storey building schemes.

The ministry would impose tougher penalties as a deterrent on developers who failed or were reluctant to apply for strata titles, he said when winding up the debate on the bill.

He said Section 8 of the act provided for the state authorities to act against developers who failed to apply for the titles, including for old buildings.

A developer could be fined up to RM100,000 or sentenced to a jail term of up to three years, or both, upon conviction, he added.

Earlier, the Dewan Rakyat also approved the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Bill 2012 which, among others, requires the practitioners to register with the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Council, which will be similar to the Malaysian Medical Council.

The Dewan Rakyat will sit again Thursday.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=697632>