

**DAP warns of dangers in new funding plan for new villages, MCA also concerned**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**Sept 14 , 2013**  
**BY ELIZABETH ZACHARIAH**

The decision to have local councils and district offices take over the approval and processing of direct funding for new villages will affect development, said the DAP.

In a statement today, secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, who is also Penang Chief Minister, said the state local councils and district offices have yet to be informed that they would take over that task from the Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry.

He was reacting to a report that the ministry had decided to cease direct funding to the 607 new villages in Peninsular Malaysia and in future funds needed for any infrastructural development would require the approval of local councils.

The new villages include 450 Chinese new villages, 113 Kampung Tersusun and 44 Chinese-majority fishing villages.

Lim noted that infrastructural development in new villages used to cost the government RM50 million annually. The amount was increased to RM70 million before the 13th General Election this year.

"In the past the direct funding method was employed, which was simple and effective. Allocations were given to new village development and security committees (JKKK) which could directly approve applications based on development needs, such as roads, drainage and building public halls or sports facilities," he said.

The main concern following the ministry's decision is whether it will burden local authorities, create red tape and affect development.

"The district offices and local councils are already busy processing the development allocations provided for by the state government," Lim said.

MCA New Village Affairs Bureau chairman Datuk Hoh Khai Mun and Youth chief Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong called on the ministry to rethink its decision and ensure that the infrastructure development in these villages is sustained.

Wee expressed concern that the allocations for the new villages will be used for other purposes by the local councils.

Lim further argued that this decision will only create the impression that the Barisan Nasional government is retaliating against the Chinese community and new villages for not supporting the ruling coalition in the general election.

"Clearly, not only national reconciliation mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is dead, but that 1Malaysia is now abandoned," he said. – September 14, 2013.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dap-warns-of-dangers-in-new-funding-plan-for-new-villages-mca-also-concerne>

