

Ong: Extra charges only for bulky waste

'Solid waste management system to be improved'

THE STAR 3/7/07 MS 21



AT THE
**DEWAN
RAKYAT**
YESTERDAY

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THE Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Bill will eliminate problems caused by people who produce large volumes of solid waste and later refuses to pay for the extra lorry transport charges.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, who tabled the bill for the second reading in the House, said the public would only be charged extra for requesting the authorities to collect extra bulky waste from their houses such as garden waste.

"Such charges are not new and have already been implemented," he told reporters at the Parliament lobby.

Ong said the people would continue paying their assessment fees.

"We are not taxing the people extra. The financial burden in managing solid waste is only between the Federal Government and the local authorities.

"What is important is we want

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DATUK SERI ONG KA TING

to see the whole solid waste management system improved within the next two years."

Ong said the Solid Waste Management Corporation – the regulatory body managing the operations of the three solid waste concessionaires – would not deal directly with the public by imposing the charges on them.

"The Government will bear the extra capital costs while the local authorities will pay the corporation part of the assessment payments collected from the public," he added.

Ong said the Corporation would have an initial staff of about 2,000 staff and would have offices at the state and district levels.

The debate continues today.