

Solid Waste Bill passed

THE STAR 5/7/07 M/S 24

Ong: It will pave way for improved services from concession-holders

THE Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Bill 2007 was passed, paving the way for an improvement in solid waste collection and management by the concession-holders.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said the local authorities and concessionaires would have to adhere to the Key Performance Index status, requiring them to improve their services or face action.

He said the Solid Waste Management Corporation would implement policies and act as a watchdog on solid waste management and enforcement. Its role will go hand-in-hand with the National Solid Waste Management Department as the regulatory body placed directly under the ministry.

A RM1bil allocation will be provided for the corporation, which



AT THE
**DEWAN
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YESTERDAY

By **ZULKIFLI A. RAHMAN,**
ELIZABETH LOOK and
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would also have 2,100 staff members, he added.

"The corporation's director-general will have control over the local authorities, which in turn will act on his behalf in enforcing solid waste management, cleanliness laws, taking action against concessionaires which do not fulfil their responsibilities, or those who destroy the environment such as being involved in illegal dumping activities," he said.

Ong said they were aware of the

MPs' concern over the wide powers of the director-general, adding that the ministry would implement a check-and-balance system to prevent power abuse, conflict of interest or lack of transparency.

Ong said the two main concessionaires were owed RM163mil by the local authorities, which hampered their efforts to invest in better equipment.

The Bill would ensure that the problem would be addressed by the local authorities and the Government, he added.

"We need at least two years after the Bill becomes law to ensure that the solid waste management and public cleanliness becomes totally effective.

"The Government will also form a committee with the industry players and NGOs on how to improve the delivery system," Ong added.



Ong: Bill ensures there will be a check and balance system to prevent abuse.