

Wee takes SPNB to task over late payments

'920 contractors yet to be paid for RMR1M projects'

MCA has criticised the delays by Syarikat Perumahan Negara Bhd (SPNB) in paying contractors involved in the Rumah Mesra Rakyat 1Malaysia (RMR1M).

Raising this matter during the Special Chambers in the Dewan Rakyat, Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong said he was informed by Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin that some 920 contractors had yet to be paid.

"I thought there are about 10 or 100 but it turns out to be 920 contractors who have yet to receive their payments for the RMR1M projects nationwide.

"This involves a sum of RM52.7mil. Pity the contractors and the people.

"How can homes be built and ready to be occupied if contractors are not paid and work is not completed?" he asked in a Facebook post.

Zuraida said a total of 46,301 units of RMR1M had been completed as of August this year.

The minister said that between 2002 and Aug 31 this year, a total of 93,693 applications had been received and reviewed across the country for the affordable homes.

"A total of 46,301 units have been completed, 2,630 units are under construction while



1,368 units are in the process of completing the agreement documents," she said in reply to Dr Wee, who asked her ministry to state the action taken to ensure that the projects would not be abandoned by the contractors.

The Ayer Hitam MP also asked why SPNB had delayed the payment to the contractors and when the government would pay them.

Zuraida said the cost of building a unit of RMR1M worth RM60,000 would be borne through a RM20,000 subsidy allocation by the government and the balance payment would

be via a bank loan by SPNB.

"SPNB has fulfilled the conditions by the banks. It has not delayed the payments as it is being done stage by stage, although there is a slight delay," she said.

When met at the Parliament lobby, Dr Wee said Barisan Nasional was unfazed with the lack of an alternative budget this year as the Opposition was well-prepared to scrutinise Pakatan Harapan's Budget 2020.

He said it was the Opposition's duty to highlight the shortcomings and inaccurate contents of the government's budget.

"We are well-prepared for the budget session. We have our own research team and we also listen to the grievances of the people.

"For instance, expectations from the small and medium enterprises, whether allocations will be increased or not, how to provide a more conducive business environment and how to help the poor," he said.

Dr Wee also said it was not compulsory for the Opposition to table an alternative budget on an annual basis.

NAFCC Bill to expand scope of centre, says Liew

THE National Anti-Financial Crime Centre (NAFCC) Bill 2019 that was passed in the Dewan Rakyat will enable investigations into financial crimes committed locally and abroad.

The Bill also entails the setting up of a centralised data system on financial crimes.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong said the centre was expected to be set up in January next year.

Speaking to reporters in the lobby, he said the NAFCC chairman and director-general would be appointed through the Parliament Select Committee.

"The government will consider suggestions for the NAFCC to report directly to Parliament or the King," he said.

Earlier in his winding-up speech, Liew said he was confident that with the NAFCC, the authorities would be able to better recover crime-related money from abroad.

He said according to the Global Financial Integrity Report, the country saw an outflow of about US\$435bil (RM1.82 trillion) in illegal and laundered money between 2006 and 2015.

Liew also denied claims that former Immigration director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali has been appointed as NAFCC's director-general.

"He (Mustafar) was appointed as chief executive officer of a nucleus team, to help set up the NAFCC earlier this year. He was tasked with helping to draft the NAFCC laws," he said.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

