



Developers encouraged to design more 'green buildings'

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government has always encouraged developers to build green buildings which have long-term benefits.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said such efforts would be continued despite obstacles in regulations pertaining to the building designs.

"For planning purposes, the developer has to submit the designs to the local council. To date, there have been several building designs which have the features of a green building.

"This includes designs in air-conditioners and water retention systems for toilets which allow recycled water to be used for other purposes," he said in reply to a question from Datuk Dr Marcus Mojigoh (BN-Putatan) at the Dewan Rakyat sitting here today.

Mojigoh wanted to know if the government encouraged developers to incorporate designs of green buildings, in line with its objectives to conserve the environment.

Mahdzir said at present, all states in the country had buildings which were environment-friendly and attained the Green Building Index (GBI).

"Some buildings have the silver, gold and platinum status, although there are not many with platinum status," he said, while assuring the government would continue encouraging developers to come up with buildings which met GBI requirements.

The platinum status is the highest level of recognition for an environment-friendly building.

In reply to a question from Dr Che Rosli Che Mat (PAS-Hulu Langat), Mahdzir said the government would also hold more programmes to increase public awareness on green technology and green buildings which contributed to a better lifestyle.

He said the government had set up the Yayasan Hijau Malaysia in March to encourage an eco-friendly lifestyle among the public. – *Bernama*