

Ministry to tackle Taoist, Buddhist temple issues



KUALA LUMPUR: The Federal Territories Ministry is looking into problems faced by about 75 Taoist and Buddhist temples in the Klang Valley, especially in getting permanent land titles.

Deputy Minister Datuk M. Saravanan, who met with some 50 Chinese temple committee chairmen at the Kuala Lumpur City Hall yesterday, said the ministry would look into coming out with a policy on the matter.

It would also look into the relocation issues faced by the temples.

He said many Chinese and Indian temples here did not

have land titles as they were built before the country's independence. Many are located on government land.

"We have to take stock of such problems and develop a proactive permanent plan to resolve the matter once and for all."

Saravanan said all present temple sites would be retained and in cases where the temples had to be relocated to make way for development, an alternative land must be given to the committee and a new temple built before the original temple was demolished.

The policy will also look in-

to making it mandatory for all new housing schemes to have an allocated space for places of worship.

Saravanan called on the MCA to form a special committee to look into the problems and liaise with the ministry as well as City Hall to resolve the problems faced by the temples.

Asked when the new policy would take effect, Saravanan said it was expected to be in place by the end of the year.

A similar stand was taken when dealing with the problems faced by the 121 Hindu temples here. — *By K. Harinderan*

Datuk M. Saravanan will look into the relocation issues faced by the temples.