

Spot checks on local govts

By **DEVID RAJAH**

KLANG: The Housing and Local Government Ministry will conduct spot checks on local governments from next month to ensure that public complaints are resolved, Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said yesterday.

He said local governments could not continue to use

shortage of manpower as an excuse for not doing their basic duties.

"We have formed a task force under the ministry to carry out the spot checks," he said at a Chinese New Year gathering organised by the Klang Chinese Chamber of Commerce. Also present was MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Dr Ting said the spot checks were not aimed at reprimanding the councils but to identify and resolve problems.

He said the task force would be headed by Housing and Local Government secretary-general Datuk Khalid Hussain.

"All other department heads in the ministry will be

in the task force," he said.

Dr Ting said although the cleanliness of certain towns, like Klang, had improved, the ministry was not satisfied because there were still public complaints on illegal dumping and uncollected garbage.

He said the people also had an important role in keeping the environment clean.

"If people can stop discard-

ing rubbish indiscriminately there will not be dirty backlanes," he said.

He also lauded non-governmental organisations' role in organising *gotong-royong* campaigns and expressed the hope that the Corrective Work Order Community Service law for litterbugs would be passed in Parliament soon.