

**A STUDY ON APPOINTMENT OF
COUNCILLORS: COMPLIANCE OF ACT 171
FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the issues related to the appointment of councillors of the Local authorities in Malaysia, specifically in Kelantan. The main issue is whether the councillors' appointment process complies with the governing Act (Local Government Act 1976 or Act 171). At the same time, this research also tries to see whether those local authorities in Kelantan are ready to be independent, in the sense that they do not need any financial aid from the federal or the state itself. Overall findings show that the Kelantan's local authorities comply with the requirement mentioned in the Local Government Act 1976. However, the best practice is still lacking especially in the case of term of office and the shortage in the number of professional councillors. In conclusion, local authorities in Kelantan still need to improve especially in trying to get more professionals to be involved with the local authorities and the financial management in generating more revenue to the local authorities.

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, & THE MOST MERCIFUL

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Local authority is a unit of public administration in the system of local government in Malaysia. The functions of a local government are to provide and manage the basic services for a town and urban population pertaining to public sanitation, general public health and security, and environmental upkeep. The objective is to provide and maintain services and amenities that would enhance safe and comfortable living environment for the population or the residents under the jurisdiction of the particular local authority.

Thus, the duties of a local authority are provision and control of buildings, streets, drainage; the collection and disposal of household and commercial wastes; disposal of night soil, drain cleaning, street sweeping, street lighting, upkeep of open lands, and provision of parks, gardens, sports grounds, cultural, social and educational amenities like theatres, community halls, library, zoo etc.

However, until late September 2000, complaints received by all local authorities in the country have increased tremendously. According to the census from Public Complaint Bureau, in 1996 the bureau received 245 cases but the amount decreased to 238 cases in 1997 and only 189 cases in 1998. However, those cases had increased to 231 cases in 1999 and 337 cases (+45.8%) until 30th September 2000.

Among the states, Pulau Pinang was reported to receive the most complaints followed by Selangor and Wilayah Persekutuan. The most frequent issue brought forward by the public was the time taken by the local authorities in responding to their complaints.

According to Abd. Majid et al (1999), the public's level of awareness towards implementation and service delivery by the Petaling Jaya Town Council (MPPJ) was still