

Reports by LEE YUK PENG, ZULKIFLI ABD RAHMAN and LOH FOON FONG

Control over monopolies

Competition Bills to create healthy business environment

THE Dewan passed the Competition Bill and Competition Commission Bill – to check conduct and practices that promote monopoly.

Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the Government was serious in creating a healthy business environment.

“Before, there was no control over monopolies and cartels, but now there are laws for such things,” he said yesterday, adding that the proposed Competition Act 2010 would be implemented by the middle or end of next year.

It prohibits concerted practices between enterprises or association of enterprises from preventing, restricting or distorting competition in Malaysia.

Ismail said the proposed Act would protect small companies and consumers, as it also prohibits the

abuse by enterprises of taking on a dominant position in Malaysia – whether in terms of dictating pricing or supplies or unfair trading terms.

Under the proposed Act, a corporation is liable to a fine of up to RM5mil and for subsequent offence, RM10mil.

The Competition Commission Bill 2010 provides for the creation of a commission to control monopoly activities and is the authority to take action against the companies involved in the activities.

Meanwhile, the Wildlife Conservation Bill 2010 calls for greater protection for wildlife and enhanced

penalties for offenders.

The Bill, tabled for first reading by Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Tan Sri Joseph Kurup, seeks to improve the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and make the laws governing wildlife relevant to current needs.

Among other things, the Bill proposes to impose a fine of up to RM100,000 or a jail term of up to five years, or both, for two offences – which are the hunting or keeping of female protected wildlife without a licence, or hunting or keeping protected young wildlife without a licence.

It also proposes the imposition of a fine of up to RM50,000 or a jail term of up to two years, or both, for those who hunt or keep protected wildlife without a licence or keep any part of such an animal illegally.