

# Good response to switch from plastic bags

**PUTRAJAYA** — The mandatory switch to the use of biodegradable plastic and paper bags enforced on Jan 1 has received positive response.

Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Dr Loga Bala Mohan said some traders and hawkers had yet to switch but noted that the ruling was still in transition before being fully enforced on Sept 1.

“There are grouses from traders but not that vehement. We use the 3E formula, that is, educate, engagement and enforcement, to get the point across,” he said after launching the Fly the Federal Territory Flag campaign here yesterday.

“For now, enforcement is more on reprimand to educate the community. So far the ministry is satisfied.”

When the ruling is fully enforced in September, errant traders and hawkers could be imposed a compound of up to the maximum RM2,000 by the Federal Territories Ministry.

Loga Bala said the ministry’s proactive move was aimed at increasing public awareness of the health risk of non-degradable plastic and polystyrene,

besides boosting the development of the biodegradable product industry.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor launched the use of biodegradable products on June 3 last year.

Loga Bala also said the Fly the Federal Territory Flag campaign was initiated in conjunction with the Federal Territories Day on Feb 1, themed “Wilayah Ceria Rakyat Sejahtera”, which was also the theme for last year.

He said there would be various activities to mark the occasion such as the 1Wilayah Persekutuan cycling convoy at Dataran Merdeka on Feb 19, chess competition (Feb 11), IPT sports carnival: Federal Territories Minister Trophy (Feb 11-12), KL Fest Supercar and Autoshow (Feb 12), International Motofest (Feb 24) and Labuan Go Green (Feb 25).

There would also be spiritual enlightenment programmes such as the “Program Ilmiah Bersama Datuk Ustaz Kazim Elias dan Ustaz Ebit Lew” (Feb 3) and “1Wilayah Persekutuan Kenduri”.

— Bernama



Two women use a bag they brought to a supermarket for their purchases instead of relying on plastic bags.