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Special rooms for bankrupts

Insolvents urged to come forward without fear

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PETALING JAYA: The Insolvency Department will have special rooms at its offices to encourage more bankrupts to come forward to discuss their problems.

Department director-general Datuk Abdul Karim Jalil said the rooms would help ease the feeling of insecurity or shame among bankrupts as many were currently not willing to come forward due to the stigma which surrounded them.

The facility would be available nationwide from next month, he told *mStar*, the Malay news portal of *The Star*.

"Up to March this year, 240,978 Malaysians were declared bankrupts. But only 30% have stepped forward and cooperated with us to help resolve their problems.

"For the first quarter of this year, a total of 4,568 new bankruptcy cases were recorded while 1,863 were either cancelled or resolved," Abdul Karim said.

"Some people send family members or close friends to represent them because they're too ashamed to meet insolvency officers."

Abdul Karim said the new facility would enable bankrupts to meet the department's

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— DATUK ABDUL KARIM JALIL

officers in private to obtain information and advice without fear.

"Their privacy will be respected as the entry and exit path are separated.

"This new initiative under the department's outreach programme gives bankrupts an opportunity to voluntarily step forward and give their cooperation, making it easier to solve their case," he added. "We hope this improvement will help us reach our 2014 target, which is to solve most bankruptcy cases."

The department aims to resolve 12,000 bankruptcy cases by year-end.