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TAJUK : Khalid : Kg. Baru Landowners Confused by Postings

'BASELESS ALLEGATIONS'

Khalid: Kg Baru landowners confused by postings

KUALA LUMPUR: Unverified postings on social media have caused confusion among Kampung Baru landowners and their heirs, as well as the public on the government's plans to redevelop the land.

Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad is hopeful that after Kampung Baru Development Corporation (PKB) concludes its briefing sessions with the landowners, they would get a clearer picture and, thus, allowing them to make an informed decision.

PKB was entrusted as the coordinator, facilitator and prime mover in the redevelopment of Kampung Baru, when it was established on April 1, 2012.

"To date, PKB had received feedback from more than 40 per cent of landowners," he said.

It was reported that this figure represents some 2,200 out of the 5,374 landowners in Kampung Baru.

"Of those who returned the (feedback) forms, 97 per cent agreed to the sale of land."

Khalid said there were also issues that needed to be addressed and ironed out as many landowners and heirs were in a state of confusion on what the government intended to undertake in the prime land located at the

heart of the city here.

"We want to explain this to the other 60 per cent of landowners and the final decision will be up to them.

"In social media postings, allegations have been thrown about and this has led to much confusion, such as the position of the Malays in Kampung Baru and that selling the land amounted to them being ejected. As such the social media postings said the Malays must stand up for their rights."

Khalid clarified that the position of the Malays was not jeopardised because after the land was redeveloped, it would be sold back to the Malays, which was part of the requirement involving the redevelopment of Kampung Baru.

"At times, social media platforms carry baseless accusations, and they have jeopardised the understanding of the owners over the matter, so they do not want to be part of the project."

Khalid was nevertheless confident that all Kampung Baru landowners would eventually agree to the government's offer, as this was the best that they

could get.

The government has offered to buy Kampung Baru owners' land plots at RM1,000 per sq ft.

"After June, I hope when PKB is done with its rounds, even if the landowners want to reject the offer, let it be (done) with a clear understanding.

"What we don't want is that they are rejecting due to some confusion that arose from what they read on social media platforms."

Khalid said among issues that the Malays were concerned about included changes to the Malay reserve land status and that they were scared if they sold their land, they would have nothing else left as that was the only inheritance that they had.

"Actually by development, the (land) potential of owners would grow. They can own more... for example, from one (land) lot, they can break it down into smaller individual lots for up to 20 or 30 affordable houses.

"We want to develop this (Kampung Baru) so that they would also reap the benefits from the development."



Khalid Abdul Samad