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Squatters

MINISTRY REGRETS DEVELOPER'S ACTION IN KAMPUNG MURNI

KANGAR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- The Housing and Local Government Ministry has expressed regrets over a developer's action in demolishing squatter houses in Kampung Murni, Ampang Campuran, Selangor during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Its deputy minister, Datuk Azmi Khalid said the developer had been asked to be flexible since the squatters were in the midst of preparing for Hari Raya.

On Dec 26, 50 residents of the kampung had sought his help to ask developer to be flexible when carrying out development work in the village, he told reporters here after being asked to comment about the demolition reported in a weekly tabloid.

As a result of the meeting, Azmi said he had asked the developer to defer the demolition work until after Ramadan.

However, the company went ahead and demolished the squatter houses on Dec 30.

Azmi said he would bring the issue to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar.

Kampung Murni, opened some 20 years ago, has 260 houses.

However, 47 families staying in the village had objected to the implementation of the development project and fought a four-year court battle with the developer.

The court had decided that the villagers did not have any rights to the area to be developed.

--BERNAMA

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