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Shahidan-Village

SHAHIDAN BLAMES LIMITED FUNDING FOR FAILURE OF MODEL VILLAGE

KANGAR, Jan 3 (Bernama) -- Limited funding contributed to the failure of government agencies in turning Kampung Tersusun Batu 20 near here a model of poverty eradication efforts, said Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

This was despite the settlement having all the necessary infrastructure while the residents themselves are entitled to ownership claim over their residential lots, he told reporters here today.

Shahidan earlier hosted a Hari Raya open house at his official residence in Jalan Kolam here which was attended by an estimated 70,000 people of the various races.

The village's socio-economic upliftment efforts were started as early as 1984 and should have brought about the desired results by now, he said.

However the objective was not realised because the implementing agencies did not get sustained financing, according to Shahidan.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid recently brought the Cabinet's attention to the dismal progress in the village, prompting it to call for a review of development projects there.

A visit to the village by Agriculture Minister Datuk Mohamed Effendi Norwawi followed soon after during which he suggested several remedial measures.

"What's important now is that a review of the development projects there should be followed through with increased funding and greater commitment by the villagers concerned," Shahidan said reacting to the Cabinet's directive.

Kampung Tersusun Batu 20, which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened in 1986, resettled 84 families previously squatting on a nearby grazing field belonging to the Veterinary Services Department.

-- BERNAMA

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