

09/08/2003

Evicted families to get units near former homes

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THE six-year wait for a home for 200 families evicted in 1997 to make way for the shelved Kuala Lumpur Linear City Project will come to an end once Kuala Lumpur City Hall has identified an area for their relocation.

Seputeh MP Teresa Kok, who met City Hall director-general Datuk Ruslin Hassan at the City Hall building in Jalan Raja Laut on Tuesday, said the authority would identify a site near their former homes.

"According to Ruslin, who had attended an Economic Planning Unit (EPU) meeting before he met me, the high-ranking officers reached a consensus to honour any promise made to the families," she said.

"In January last year, the EPU, under the Prime Minister's Department, had offered to sell low-cost units to the families at RM42,000 but until now, this has not materialised.

"City Hall still needs to confirm other details like the developer and location, before further information can be revealed.

"However, the authority will issue a 'promise' letter to the affected families to make it easier for them to buy the apartments," said Kok.

"We will also need to update the name list to ensure that no one is left out."

Those affected should call Kok's office at 03-79836768 or fax 03-79837576. They can also contact committee chairman Ng See Chong at 03-58910960.

Kok said because of the high rental in the city, the families were living in outskirts areas, including Semenyih, Nilai and Rawang, as rental in these areas was cheaper.

"Ruslin also said as a temporary measure, the families can move to the Taman Wahyu 1 flats in Kepong at a rental of RM124 per month until their houses are completed.

"However, the families have to do this within two to three weeks before other squatters are relocated there."

On Monday, Kok and some of the residents had presented a memorandum on their plight to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Kok said the memorandum was accepted by the PM's first political secretary Datuk Johari Baharum and private secretary Mohd Shafiq Abdullah.

The residents, from Kampung Pasir Dalam, Kampung Kicap and Brickfields, were evicted in 1997 to make way for the KL Linear City Project.

They had been given two options, RM22,000 cash or a medium-cost apartment in Bukit Jalil which would be sold to the families at RM45,000 per unit.

However, after the project stalled in 1997, those who had opted for the second package were forgotten and KL Linear City Sdn Bhd claimed that the firm was not able to provide compensation to the families due to financial constraints.