

Selangor forms select committee on poverty

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By Lee Long Hui

The Selangor legislative assembly has established a special select committee to oversee state funds used for poverty eradication programmes.

Noneled by PAS Ulu Klang assemblyperson Shaari Sungib, the committee consists of Razaly Hassan (PAS-Dusun Tua), Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad (PKR-Seri Setia), Haniza Mohamed Talha (PKR-Taman Medan), Lau Weng San (DAP-Kampung Tunku), Lai Nyuk Lan (DAP-Sungai Pelek) and Kamarol Zaki Abdul Malik (Umno-Sungai Ayer Tawar).

Speaking to reporters yesterday, assembly speaker Hannah Yeoh (right) said that the committee will scrutinise whether the funding and the welfare programmes for the Geran Selangorku fund had effectively addressed poverty.

"We are the richest state in Malaysia, so we want to make sure that the money that we have (is well spent)... We want to give back to the poor through the Merakyatkan Ekonomi Selangor programme," she said.

Meeting with village chiefs

Yeoh, together with Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, conceded that the implementation of Geran Selangorku had been ineffective and thus the establishment of the select committee.

Meanwhile, Khalid said that the state government will meet all village chiefs, youth and women representatives to discuss rural development.

He said the meetings will take about a hundred days and implementation would take place in the following 500 days.

The state government is planning to develop rural areas based on "asset-based community development", but Khalid was coy with details. He said he will only reveal more when he tables the budget for 2014 in November.

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