

Senator flayed over Jelutong eviction accusations
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Two Penang municipal councillors have flayed a woman senator for accusing them of being masterminds behind Jelutong's mega-development projects that resulted in the recent eviction of about 200 Malay villagers.

Councillor Ramlah Asiahoo said Saripah Aminah Syed Mohammed has caused chaos by her recent claim in the media that the state was responsible for the ongoing disappearance of Malay villages from Penang.

Ramlah, who is a PKR appointee, accused Saripah Aminah, a former councillor, for not helping the affected villagers whose complaints dated back to 2008, during BN's rule.

One of the biggest problems caused by "useless" councillors, she added, was haphazard town planning which was evident in the lack of proper access roads in villages for ambulances or fire engines during emergencies.

Ramlah said she was merely stating the "facts and reality" of the current situation which proved that Saripah Aminah had failed in her job when she was a former municipal councillor.

"Please sit quietly. Let the smarter folks help the residents resolve their problems," she advised.

"Please, don't act like a heroine after creating big problems for the villagers in Jelutong and for the municipal council. Stop being cruel to them" she told Saripah Aminah.

Ramlah was responding to the senator's claims that PR appointed councillors were the masterminds (dalang) behind development projects in traditional Malay villages, causing them to be wiped out from the face of the island, one by one.

Saripah Aminah alleged in the Malay edition of Free Malaysia Today on Tuesday that the councillors had offered landowners between RM50,000 and 75,000 to sell their land to developers.

She had also blamed the Malay community for wanting a change of government from BN to DAP in the last general election, saying the Malays thought they could seek help from former deputy chief minister Fairus Kamaruddin, but the latter was helpless as the state was controlled by DAP.

Ramlah's colleague, councillor Yusof Noor, joined in the fray and fired a salvo at the former government and Saripah Aminah for allowing luxurious development projects that caused property prices in the area to skyrocket.

"Who is the real traitor of the Malays?" he asked, as he lashed out at Saripah Aminah for saying that villagers were forced to leave their homes as residential houses were so expensive that they would never be able to afford them.

Yusof was referring to the high-rise development projects of Mutiara Idaman 1 and 2, and Mutiara Heights, which affected villages in Jalan Tengku, Medan Tengku and Jalan Hajjah

Rehmah, which are all in the vicinity of Jelutong.

"It is the former Umno municipal councillor who has conspired with developers to approve and allow housing projects that eventually brought suffering to the people due to lack of access roads to their houses," he said.

"Until today, about seven families who have received eviction orders have not been compensated by the developer. So, who is the real traitor of the Malay community?" asked the PAS appointed councillor.

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