

Khalid issues challenge to Khir
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Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim today challenged his predecessor to join him for an open meeting with Kuala Semesta Sdn Bhd (KSSB) to get the full brief on the illegal sand mining menace in the state.

He said former menteri besar Mohamad Khir Toyo should first get his facts straight before attacking the state administration for allegedly allowing the illegal activity to get out of hand.

azlan"We know he has information on illegal sand mining, but we have information that he does not have," Khalid said when interjecting during Khir's speech during the debate on the appointment of an opposition member as Public Accounts Committee chief.

Khalid stressed that Khir never made the effort to approach KSSB to update himself on the state's progress in battling illegal sand mining.

"During the time that Sungai Panjang (Khir's constituency) was the menteri besar, there had been numerous cases of sand theft.

"Before raising this issue again in the House, please account for all your facts... I urge that this issue is not raised in the House until we go for that meeting," Khalid said.

NONEKhir (right), when met during the break, said he is ready to take up Khalid's challenge but implied that it won't solve anything.

"I've gone through these technical explanations many times when I was menteri besar. The only question I want to ask is who is going to pay for the 36.5m (deep) crater?," he said, referring to his expose of alleged illegal sand mining in Kg Olak Lempit in Kuala Langat.

News reports on Monday quoted Khir as claiming that an illegal sand mining operation moved some 10 million tonnes of sand out of the area in two weeks, leaving a deep crater.

Khalid rubbished the claims later on the same day, saying the company running sand mining operations at the location is legal but not capable of moving such a large volume of sand in that short a time.

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