

**Sand Mining Scandal Investigation An Act By PR Selangor**  
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The Selangor state government is merely putting on a show for the public through its Select Committee on Competency, Accountability and Transparency (Selcat).

The public hearing by Selcat today calling for an investigation into the sand mining scandal befalling the state is just a show and will not solve the problem which is serious.

The Selangor state government did not investigate the issue even after they received complaints. Selangor Speaker Teng Chang Kim, as the chairman of Selcat, should carry out his responsible fairly by publishing the facts to the public instead of evading his responsibilities by challenging reporters to provide evidence, as the state government should be the one conducting the investigation, not them.

The state government should investigate this issue, and if they fail to do so it will show that the state government is incompetent and that they lack credibility and transparency.

As the state government is unable to solve the sand theft issue, they are only putting on a show by asking Selcat, which has no authority, to investigate so that people will think that they are taking this issue seriously. Besides that, they have also pushed the responsibility to the witness by claiming that he did not attend and had refused to assist the Selcat hearing, and later using the excuse that they had no evidence as an attempt to cover up the subject.

There are 10 types of exceptions to the Freedom of Information Act in Selangor, and these include documents which are listed under the 1972 Official Secrets Act. The Selangor Menteri Besar has the authority to declassify these documents except for official documents. Therefore, the Act is invalid.

Thus, I challenge the Selangor state government to prove that its Freedom of Information Act is valid by opening up the financial and audit reports of the state government's subsidiaries, including those of Kuala Semesta Sdn Bhd (KSSB) and the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS).

In the Auditor-General's Report 2009, it had reported that sand theft has become very serious, and that after KSSB had taken over, a total of 1 million tonnes of sand were stolen. This is equivalent to RM1.82 million in taxes.

The report also pointed out that the state's sand mining activities were not satisfactory, and that among the shortfalls were the destruction of the eco-system and the river bank and the stability of the soil, as well as air and sound pollution and infrastructure damage and so on.

Sand theft has caused pieces of land to sink, with one case on a private land where the land had sunk 15 to 18.6 meters deep, forming a large hole which is dangerous to the local residents. The Department of Irrigation and Drainage had also predicted that if sand mining activities are not controlled, the next five years will see the riverbank become increasingly dangerous.

Sand theft has also triggered landslides in many places, such as the International Islamic University in Selangor, where dredging activities have damaged the riverbank near residential areas, and its collapse will change the structure of the river.

The mismanagement of Selangor's development policy has become an issue, yet Pakatan Rakyat Selangor is still praising themselves by saying that they had contributed more to the state government.

This proves that Pakatan Rakyat's boasts of integrity, transparency, and zero corruption is pure nonsense.

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