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# Minutes of meetings to be declassified

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**SHAH ALAM:** The Selangor government will declassify minutes of state executive council meetings pertaining to land and funds allocated to the Poverty Eradication Foundation.

Mentri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim said a detailed report on how much was allocated - and the purposes for which it was meant will be released by the end of this month.

"Since the state government has given its land and funds to the foundation to carry out projects and programmes for the poor over the last 10 years, we have a right to know how they were used and spent.

This is to ensure that the target group obtained the maximum benefits," he said.

The state executive council meeting on Oct 20 last year decided that at least two state representatives should sit on the foundation's board of trustees.

It was decided that the best candidates would be the

mentri besar as chairman and the state executive councillor in charge of welfare as a board member.

A statement from the mentri besar's office on Jan 7 said, the state was worried about the lack of transparency in ensuring the foundation's resources were managed prudently.

This includes 181ha of land in Serendah.

Abdul Khalid said, in addition to ensuring checks and balances on how the resources were used, the involvement of the state would allow the foundation to have more clout and resources to effectively carry out welfare programmes.

"The state's appointment of the mentri besar as chairman, and the executive councillor in charge of welfare as a board member was based on the status and not the personality," he said.

The move was also in line with the state's endeavour to promote transparency and accountability, he said.

Asked what kind of abuses the state was concerned about, Abdul Khalid re-

sponded: "Do you know how many houses the foundation had built for the poor?"

In response to the "no" to his question, he said: "We also do not know, and this is why we want to find out how the land and funds we have allocated are being used."

Asked what the state will do if the board does not agree to the state's involvement in the foundation, and if this will mean the state will resort to measures like revoking the assets given to the foundation, Abdul Khalid said: "They can do so, but we still want to know how the resources we have given them have been used."

The Poverty Eradication Foundation was set up more than 10 years ago by the then state government to carry out poverty eradication and welfare programmes.

In a statement to the media on Tuesday, Abdul Khalid's political secretary Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said the state wants the foundation to release a detailed audit report on its activities as none was made available over the past five years.