

PM CONDEMNS 'CRUEL' ATTACK

Anwar calls for swift probe into assault on Dang Wangi police chief during protest

LUQMAN HAKIM AND ZAF SERAJ
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE prime minister has urged authorities to swiftly investigate and arrest those responsible for assaulting Dang Wangi police chief Assistant Commissioner Sulizmie Affendy Sulaiman during a protest against the eviction exercise in Kampung Sungai Baru yesterday.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said while everyone had the right to peaceful assembly, he condemned acts of violence.

"The government respects the right to peaceful assembly and the expression of views, as consistently demonstrated in previous gatherings.

"However, the principle of freedom also requires responsibility, with strict adherence to law, order and civility.

"The incident in which the

Dang Wangi district police chief was assaulted and injured by irresponsible parties with vested interests is cruel and must be condemned.

"I have urged the authorities to immediately carry out an investigation and swiftly apprehend those responsible for the attack," he stated on Facebook yesterday.

The operation to vacate the area was carried out following a court order to facilitate the area's redevelopment plan.

The situation turned tense after residents demanded access to the area. They had gathered at the site since early morning. At 10am, following a series of speeches by their representative, they tried to force their way into the area.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the commotion should not have happened as the affected residents had long been given eviction notices.

In this regard, he said he would ask Titiwangsa member of parliament Datuk Seri Johari Ghani, who has also been appointed to lead Umno's Special Task Force on improving the Urban Renewal Bill, to address the matter immediately.

"Although we have planned to hold a convention on the bill, we will continue to take immediate action in line with the existing legal system," he said after his keynote address at the Global Islamic Finance Summit here yesterday, reported Bernama.

Meanwhile, Johari said developers must understand the uniqueness of Kampung Sungai Baru land, and any redevelopment must preserve and take into account the Malay community's interests.

Developers of Kampung Sungai Baru must build housing that was affordable for the Malays, as the land was originally granted to the community by the then-Sultan of Selangor during the British era, he said.

"Today, we face a very serious problem regarding the redevelopment of Kampung Sungai

Baru, and I don't agree with this.

"But since it has already taken place and cannot be reversed, the developer must ensure that redevelopment of the 3.19ha area results in housing that the Malays can afford," he said in a statement.

Johari labelled the developer's move to use compulsory land acquisition laws against 14 homeowners who refused to vacate as irresponsible.

"I am also saddened that this matter has escalated to the point of injuring a public servant."

Johari said he would meet with the prime minister and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa to ensure that the redeveloped area could only be purchased by Malays.

Separately, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail condemned the violent incident as "despicable and uncivilised".

The enforcement of the writ of vacant possession involving 26 individual titles covering 37 terraced houses was completed last night.

KAMPUNG SUNGAI BARU SAGA

■ **1932:** Warta No. 1550 gazettes 220ha of Kampung Baru as a Malay Agricultural Settlement.

■ **1970s:** The Selangor State Development Corporation develops Kampung Sungai Baru into residential housing with 99-year leasehold titles, unlike the freehold/Malay reserve lots in the main Kampung Baru area.

■ **2016:** Ritzy Gloss Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Suez Capital Sdn Bhd, offers to develop the area via a joint venture with the residents. This is meant to give the residents a say in their relocation and development plans.

■ **2021:** The government issues a gazette under Section 8 of the Land Acquisition Act 1960 to acquire land in Kampung Sungai Baru. This affects about 410 residential units (terraced houses, flats, apartments), impacting over 2,000 residents.

■ **2023:** More eviction notices are issued, with a deadline of Oct 4, 2023. The prime minister later calls for a postponement to allow further discussion with residents.

■ **2025:** A major standoff erupts as hundreds of police and enforcement officers enter Kampung Sungai Baru to enforce an eviction notice. The Dang Wangi police chief is injured during the incident.