

Kedah MB Urged To Resolve Land Encroachment Issue
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ALOR SETAR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Gabungan Generasi Hilang Tanah (Gagah) today handed over a memorandum to Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak over an alleged encroachment of hundreds of hectares of land in Kuala Nerang by a sugar company.

Gagah chairman Ismail Nazraie Al-Ulu said the state government must take immediate action against the company and return the land to landowners as the 30-year lease had lapsed.

According to an agreement with former menteri besar Tun Syed Ahmad Syed Mahmud Shahabuddin, the land must be returned to the owners once it is no longer cultivated with sugar cane, Ismail told reporters after presenting the memorandum to menteri besar's senior private secretary Helmi Yahya at Wisma Darul Aman here along with five affected landowners.

Gagah submitted 10 proposals and solutions to the state government, including returning the 11,400ha Malay reserve land leased by the Kedah State Development Corporation to landowners for it to be developed by federal agencies like Felda and Felcra.

It also urged the state government to investigate the alleged encroachment of a buffer zone as the company was supposed to cultivate only 6,666ha of land instead of 4,734ha.

Meanwhile, about 1,500 landowners held a peaceful demonstration for an hour outside the sugar factory, calling for the company to return the land to them.

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