

Government Assures Illegal Houses Of Worship Will Not Simply Be Demolished
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- The government has given an assurance that illegal houses of worship will not simply be demolished to enable people of all faiths to carry out their religious activities.

Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin said although many houses of worship had been set up illegally, it was up to the owners to obtain legal status for the land.

"Whether the land is government- or privately-owned, there must be discussions or negotiations first, then we ensure that they get a suitable site for relocation if they wish to.

"However, the process will take a long time as it involves several procedures, but the government is aware of the religious sensitivities in this country," he said after the handing-over of the approval letter for a government reserve land as the site for the Arulmigu Sri Ramalingeswarar temple, here.

The site of the temple which has been in operation for over 100 years, has been made reserve land under Section 62 of the National Land Code and under control of the Federal Land Commissioner, and the site managed by the temple committee.

Raja Nong Chik said the purpose was to ensure that the site was legal in terms of planning, was gazetted in accordance with the law and would remain as the site for a house of worship.

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