

Noh Concerned Over Selangor Foundation's Intention To Demolish Kampung Pandan Hostels
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TANJONG KARANG, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Selangor BN deputy chairman Datuk Seri Noh Omar today expressed concern over the reported intention of the Selangor Foundation to demolish two hostels in Kampung Pandan, Kuala Lumpur, for a commercial project.

He claimed that the Pakatan Rakyat government in Selangor does not give due concern to the education of children in the state, particularly those from the rural areas.

The previous Selangor government led by the Barisan Nasional (BN) had taken the initiative to enable children from the state obtain better education to pluck them out of poverty, he said.

The then BN state government established the Selangor Foundation to help rural children further their education at schools with hostels, such as SMK St John and Victoria Institution, he told a news conference after opening the general meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association of SMK Datuk Harun, here.

Noh, who is MP for Tanjong Karang and Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister, said the BN state government had taken the initiative to give Selangor children a better education although education is the responsibility of the federal government.

Selangor children sponsored by the Selangor Foundation were emplaced at the two Kampung Pandan hostels -- namely the Toh Puan Norashikin and Tun Dr Ismail hotels, he said.

"The PKR-led state government wants to demolish the structures we (the BN) built," he said.

He also said that as of this year, the state government is not selecting Year One students to be sponsored by the Selangor Foundation for emplacement in Kuala Lumpur schools but at district hostels and to study at nearby schools.

Noh said that emplacing the students in the district hostels would not expose them to the competition prevalent in schools such as SMK St John and Victoria Institution, and went against the objective of setting up the foundation.

He said the foundation claimed that it was short of funds to sponsor the students' schooling and lodging but he has come to understand that in 2009 the foundation had RM80 million in funds.

He also said that Universiti Selangor (Unisel), set up by the BN state government, is said to be facing losses running into millions of ringgit following a decline in enrolment.

Feedback he received indicated that parents were less comfortable wanting to send their children to Unisel because the campus and administration are allegedly influenced by

political ideology, he said.

Furthermore, the state government prohibited the federal government from building a campus of Universiti Teknologi Mara in Serendah, resulting in the project having to be relocated to Jasin, Melaka, he said.

Noh also said that the state government's promised contribution of RM1,000 for every Selangor child which enters university is not enjoyed by all as promised by the party prior to the general election in 2008.

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