

'Protect Malay reserve land'
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ROYAL CALL: Ensure state land is managed wisely, says Selangor ruler

SHAH ALAM: SELANGOR'S Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah yesterday called on all parties to protect Malay reserve land from falling into the hands of ineligible individuals or companies.

In so doing, the parties must observe all related provisions under the Constitution.

Sultan Sharafuddin said he did not want any parties to resort to irresponsible acts by attempting to transfer Malay reserve land to individuals or companies not owned by Malays. He said land was Selangor's main asset.

"Therefore, the state government must bear the responsibility to ensure state land is managed wisely and with honesty.

"Public areas such as forest reserves, water catchment areas and river reserves must be safeguarded.

"Encroachment must be eliminated and development projects in these areas should not be permitted," he said.

"The menteri besar and all state government officials involved in land deals must always be vigilant to ensure that Malay reserve land is protected and its status not transferred," the ruler said when opening the fifth term of the Selangor state assembly sitting yesterday.

Sultan Sharafuddin said that as the state's head of Islam, he wanted the state government to give serious attention to improving the quality of life of Muslims.

"In order to develop the Muslim community, education and economic development must be made priority.

"The Zakat Board has to be strengthened in line with development and demands of time while the target group must be identified so that those eligible to receive zakat (tithes) will not be left behind or marginalised."

The ruler said the progress of Muslims as the majority group in the state could have a positive impact on the state and people.

Sultan Sharafuddin also reminded state lawmakers to make full use of the state assembly session to enact laws, discuss and debate matters to ensure continued prosperity for the people.

He said all issues must be debated intellectually and not emotionally by putting the interest of the people and state first.

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