

PM wants report
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INQUIRY: Study on Orang Asli land to be completed by September

PRIME MINISTER Datuk Seri Najib Razak has asked the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) to prepare a report on the issue of encroachment of Orang Asli land and allegations of them encroaching on state land.

Deputy Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Joseph Entulu Belaun said Najib had expressed concern about the matter and wanted it resolved quickly.

The report, National Inquiry Into Orang Asli/Indigenous People Land Rights, to be completed in September, would be submitted to Parliament as well as the Federal and state governments for further action.

Belaun said the report would contain recommendations and long, medium and short-term solutions and recommendations on the Orang Asli issue.

He added that Suhakam would also monitor and conduct follow-up reports to ensure the effective implementation of its proposals by the relevant authorities.

"Our ministry is eager to resolve the issue with the gazetting of all Orang Asli land, but there has been some delay because of some technical matters.

"There has also been some meddling by certain groups claiming to be non-governmental organisations," he told Dewan Negara yesterday.

Belaun said the ministry was actively consulting with all quarters, including the relevant state governments and MBs for the gazetting of Orang Asli land.

He added the technical aspect of the matter was being discussed between the state level Orang Asli Development Department and the relevant Land and Mines Office.

"In addition to all this, the department had initiated a Land Technical Committee in December 2009 which is responsible for the monitoring of the exercise."

As of June 20, there is a total of 27,768.70ha of gazetted Orang Asli land in the country compared with 19,713.65ha in 2010.

He said of the gazetted Orang Asli land, 11,988.09ha stands in Perak, 4,863.20ha in Johor, Pahang (4,331.20ha), Negeri Sembilan (3,392.50ha), Terengganu (1,370.37ha), Selangor (1,323.27ha), Kelantan (245.48ha), Kedah (173.38ha) and Malacca (81.20ha).

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