

Perak MB Orders Further Study On Claims Cement Plant Affecting Residents' Health
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IPOH, Aug 7 (bernama) -- Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir has ordered a further study on claims by residents of Sungai Siput, near here, that a nearby cement plant is adversely affecting their health and the environment.

He said the study would be chaired by state Health, Local Government, Consumer Affairs, Environment, Transportation and Non-Muslim Affairs Committee chairman, Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon together with the relevant departments and agencies.

"This is a lesson for the state government in the aspects of planning and development of areas in Perak. The Lafarge cement plant has been in operation for over 40 years and when it started, there might be no housing areas nearby. So, we now have to look at planning and development in the long term to avoid such a situation," he said when met at the state government's Meet Customers Day, here, today.

He was earlier asked to comment on the memorandum sent to him by the Dovenby Action Committee on the health problems faced by residents of Taman Dovenby and Kampung Ramasamy in Sungai Siput, said to be due to the Lafarge cement plant operations.

The residents claim that the plant emits dust and creates loud noise and ground vibrations, causing cracks in their house walls and floors, while their children have grown thinner and experiencing asthma and chest pains.

Zambry said the state government was in a dilemma, as while it sympathised with the residents, it was also asked by them to stop the cement plant's operation or to relocate it to somewhere else to solve the problem.

He said Dr Mah would discuss the residents' complaints with the cement plant management and that the plant, meanwhile, should strictly follow the regulations and monitor the effects of its operations on the surrounding area.

"It should take measures to prevent dust from the cement plant from flying about so as not to cause discomfort to the residents and not to affect their health," he said.

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