

PAS forms group to tackle Pengerang issue
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By Lisa J. Ariffin

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25 — PAS has announced the setting up of Mantap, an organisation formed by the party's central committee to resolve the Pengerang land-grab issue for the development of the Pengerang Integrated Petroleum Complex (PIPC) in Johor.

PAS Kubang Kerian MP Salahuddin Ayub said today Mantap would ensure the development in Pengerang would not affect the wellbeing of its villagers.

"The villagers' interest is our interest. We are not against the project but just want to make sure they get as much compensation as their land is worth," party vice-president Salahuddin (picture) told a press conference in Parliament here.

"We support fully any development. What Mantap strives for is the land-grab issue," he said.

Salahuddin said that according to his sources, Pengerang villagers were being offered RM2.80 a square foot for their land.

"So if it's one acre, the villagers will only receive RM80,000.

"They have already lost their land, lost their village, compensation is not enough, and relocation houses have to be bought from the government," he said.

"Mantap will fight for the right compensation to ensure the future of the villagers is well looked after," he added.

Salahuddin also said Pakatan Rakyat (PR) has estimated 15,000 to 20,000 of its members will participate in the Pengerang Everlasting Green Rally in protest against the project this Sunday.

The gathering will be held at Dataran Sungai Rempit in Pengerang from 10am to noon.

Members of the public can call 019-757-5652 or visit www.hijau.info for more information.

On September 19, state economic planning unit (UPEN) director Elias Hasran said Pengerang residents affected by the project would be relocated to the new resettlement scheme Taman Bayu Permai on a 156.61ha site which would be ready by March next year.

He said the state would bear all the expenses to provide public facilities such as health clinic, primary and secondary schools under the new resettlement scheme.

"About 640 households from three villages will move to their new houses at Taman Bayu Permai in April under the phase one of the relocation exercise."

The three villages are Kampung Sungai Kapal, Kampung Teluk Empang and Kampung Langkah Baik.

By October 2013, four more villages would follow suit — Kampung Sebong, Kampung Batu Mas, Kampung Jawa and Kampung Sungai Buntu.

He said although villagers came from different villages, they would be allowed to retain the original names of their former villages at the new resettlement scheme.

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