



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NST			
TARIKH	:	4/9/2021 (SABTU)	MUKA SURAT	:	10
JABATAN	:	-			

JOINT PH STATEMENT

'Selangor govt to resolve degazettement of forest reserve issue'

KUALA LUMPUR: The Selangor state government will resolve all issues surrounding the degazettement of the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve by next week said Pakatan Harapan (PH).

In a joint statement yesterday, PH Selangor chapter chairpersons said they had agreed for Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari to bring the matter up during the State Executive Council meeting on Sept 8.

"The chairpersons of Selangor PH component parties are committed to upholding all of PH's basic principles related to the environment and its people's agenda as guidelines and guidance in every state development plan.

"At the same time, objections to the proposed Petaling Jaya Dispersal Link (PJD Link) highway were also given attention and discussed at length (during yesterday's meeting).

"Selangor PH takes note that PJD Link has yet to receive approval from the state government.

"The meeting had also agreed to reject any attempts to revive the Kidex highway project or anything of the same nature," they said in the statement after a meeting yesterday.

The joint statement was signed by Amirudin, who is also PKR Selangor chairman and PH Selangor chairman, along with DAP Selangor chairman Gobind Singh Deo, as well as Parti Amanah Negara Selangor chairman Izhah Hashim.

Meanwhile, Bandar Saujana



A group of Orang Asli from several settlements at the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve, along with environmental groups, had last year protested to the degazettement plan. FILE PIC

Putra MIC urged the Selangor government to find an immediate solution to the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve degazettement issue.

Bandar Saujana Putra MIC branch chief S. Kumaran pointed out that the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve, which was gazetted in the early 1920s, had shrunk by 97 per cent from its original size.

"The Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve is a peat swamp forest that has a unique biodiversity and ecosystem functions that are

important for the residents of the Kuala Langat district.

"This forest is also a customary land to the Orang Asli community in the Kuala Langat district.

"Bandar Saujana Putra MIC fully supports the statement by Umno Information Chief Shahril Hamdan, who is also Kuala Langat Umno youth chief, who suggested intervention by the federal government in resolving the issues so that the country's treasure can be preserved," he said.

Kumaran said the Selangor PH

government's action in agreeing to gazette 536.7ha of the forest reserve for development was very disappointing.

"New townships around the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve, such as Bandar Rimbayu and Gamuda Cove, have yet to reach population density and so a new development project in this area is not needed at present.

"We hope that a comprehensive solution can be reached to save the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve."

On Thursday, Energy and Nat-

ural Resources Minister Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said the federal government had objected to the plan to degazette the forest for redevelopment.

According to Takiyuddin, the data from the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia revealed that the size of forest area in Selangor had already reached 31.74 per cent up to 2019.

He said Malaysia was committed to maintaining the natural forest cover of more than 50 per cent of its total landmass as pledged at the international level (1992 United Nations Rio Earth Summit).

State Tourism, Environment, Green Technology and Orang Asli Affairs Committee chairman Hee Loy Sian had on Aug 30 told the Selangor legislative assembly that the state degazetted 536.7ha of the forest reserve slated for development under Section 12 of the National Forestry Act (Adoption) Enactment 1985.

He said it was approved during the state executive council meeting on May 5 and validated in another meeting on May 19.

A group of Orang Asli from several settlements there, along with environmental groups, had last year protested to the degazettement plan and suggested rehabilitation efforts to prevent the occurrence of bush fires in the area.

The state government had cited the degraded areas caused by the recurring fires as one of the reasons for the redevelopment proposal.

