



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES		
TARIKH	:	8/1/2020	MUKA SURAT	:
JABATAN	:	JPS / BANJIR		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN		

Poor roads, floods matter more for some

MEMBAKUT: For some Kadazan-dusun Murut constituents in Kimanis, concerns over the implementation of the Sabah Temporary Pass (PSS) take a back seat to more pressing issues.

Ondu Ambidau, 66, said she had little knowledge about the PSS, but was not worried about it as the main problems facing her village were poor road conditions and perennial flooding.

"My concern is whenever it rains, I will often get stranded in my home," said the Kampung Bowan villager.

The senior citizen lives alone and survives on a RM350 monthly allowance from the government.

She said the road would be impassable to vehicles for days after a downpour.

"It is usually so bad that you can literally plant padi on the muddy road. Other than that, the area is

always flooded and it is a lot of work to clean up the mess."

The village head of Kampung Sindok, Rusi Gurumong, said there was an urgent need to improve infrastructure to connect more areas in the district to the main road.

"I live across the river. It would be more convenient if the government builds bridges that would improve connectivity and allow for efficient transportation of agricultural products."

She said the introduction of PSS for foreign immigrants in Sabah was probably

something good initiated by the government.

"Furthermore, there are ministers (supporting) it, so it should not be something to be scared of," said the newly-appointed village chief.

Rusi expressed concern about villagers who might lose their generations-old houses on lands

being developed as plantations.

"They have been living there for three generations. All of a sudden, they are told to leave the place. Where can they go?"

For Ruzita Maidon, 32, every day is a struggle to ensure that her two children get the necessary education in Membakut.

"The annual school fee keeps increasing. It is not easy to find RM300 for the school fee per child and money for schooling expenses.

"There are not many job opportunities in Membakut. People are making a living via odd jobs, but those, too, are limited."

The controversial PSS is one of the attacking points used by Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno against Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan) in the ongoing campaign for the Jan 18 Kimanis parliamentary seat by-election.

Proposed by the Home Ministry, the PSS is set to replace the IMM13, Pas Burung-Burung and Census cards to better regulate and monitor the presence of foreigners in the state.



Rusi Gurumong