

DBKL seeks resolution from ministry over water leaks at PPR Seri Aman

By AIDA AHMAD

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KUALA Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will submit a letter to Housing and Local Government Ministry seeking possible solutions for water leakage problems at the Seri Aman people's housing project (PPR) in Kepong.

DBKL Project Implementation executive director Datuk Azmi Abdul Hamid told *StarMetro* that following a meeting with the PPR Seri Aman developer and contractor last week, the local authority would now seek the ministry's assistance on the best way to resolve major water leaks in 100 units.

"To reiterate, this is an internal PPR issue and it is the ministry's project.

"We will wait for the ministry to reply on how to resolve the matter, including the legal aspects," he said.

StarMetro recently reported that since the defect liability period (DLP) had expired at the four-block Seri Aman PPR, DBKL needed to see who was responsible for repairs and address the issues at the units sold to residents.

Azmi had said that investigations into what happened and why the pipe system within the units was leaking were needed.

Both Azmi and Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah had also recently visited PPR Seri Aman to address the matters at the affected units.

PPR Seri Aman, one of the newer people's housing projects in the city, was built to house former squatters from Jinjang Utara.

Meanwhile, PPR Seri Aman Residents Association chairman Mohamed Nawaz Koya urged DBKL to explain the prolonged delay in approving loans for the residents under the Federal Territory Foundation's (YWP) rent-to-own scheme.

He said that when the first batch of residents taking up 634 units moved into the PPR at the end of 2017, they were given a six-month moratorium by the local authority (PPR Seri Aman is on DBKL land) while they sorted out their loan arrangements.

"But most of our residents are aged above 50, so getting a bank loan is difficult for them.

"Nowadays, RM35,000 is considered a personal loan, not a housing loan.

"We discussed this with DBKL then and they introduced the YWP loan scheme," he said, adding that the families received offer letters to purchase the PPR units at a cost of RM35,000 per unit.

They were given the option to pay by cash, make a withdrawal from Account Two of their Employees Provident Fund, or apply for loan under YWP.

Nawaz said the problem began when DBKL agreed that the loan would be released within the first six months while residents paid RM250 monthly rent to DBKL.

"But until now, many have not received their loan sums.

"DBKL never renewed the six-month agreement, and suddenly, residents are getting notices to pay arrears of up to one year.

"Although we are buying units, we are still tied up with DBKL until the loan is approved.

"Why is DBKL tying us up with rent when the agreement is only for six months?

"Meanwhile, YWP has sent us letters saying that our loans are pending because we still have debts with DBKL.

"It is unfair to put the burden on us. DBKL must solve this problem," he reiterated.

Nawaz said that when they met with DBKL officers previously, residents were told YWP had "no funds to release the loans".

"I have been bombarded with questions from affected residents, saying that if they are paying RM250 to DBKL in rent, then it must be responsible for repairing the faults currently at the PPR, such as the water leaks," he added.

When asked to comment, Azmi said he would look into this matter.

YWP chief legal officer Mohd Fadzil Ab Hamid told *StarMetro* that its special financing scheme for the PPR Seri Aman residents would be approved pending a final list of qualified recipients from DBKL.

"The screening for eligible recipients, regardless of the loan amount, is done by DBKL, not us.

"The requirements to qualify for the YWP scheme is that the recipient is not bankrupt, has no outstanding debts with DBKL and is not tied up with other financial institutions for loans.

"So far, over 300 PPR Seri Aman residents have been cleared to receive YWP loans," said Fadzil.

DBKL summons meeting to seek cause of water leaks in PPR

By BAVANI M.
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KUALA Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has summoned a meeting with the developer and contractor of the people's housing project (PPR) in Seri Aman, Kepong, to discuss the building's water leakage problem. DBKL project implementation executive director Datuk Azmi Abdul Hamid told *StarMetro* that the meeting would touch on all aspects of the problem, including



Nawaz showing the multiple complaints by residents who are putting up with extensive water leaks in their units. — Filepic

Inset: *StarMetro*'s report on Sept 20.