

'VET DEVELOPERS THOROUGHLY'

To get redevelopment projects, firms must have solid background and clear plan, says Johari

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KUALA Lumpur City Hall must ensure all land acquisitions for development projects meet strict criteria to avoid complications, said Titiwangsa member of parliament Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

Citing the challenges at Pasar Datuk Keramat as an example, Johari, who is also plantation and commodities minister, said it was crucial that developers were thoroughly vetted before land acquisitions were approved to safeguard the livelihoods of communities around it.

He said the vetting criteria must include a solid company background, strong financial standing and a clear plan for managing the relocation of traders in the area.

"The Implementation Coordination Unit of the Prime Minister's Office recently visited Pasar Datuk Keramat to assess what needs upgrading. I am waiting for feedback.

"City Hall has reclaimed the land and the developer has been paid back as it failed to complete the project.



Titiwangsa member of parliament Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani greeting people during the Santun Madani programme with Kampung Datuk Keramat residents in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. NSTP PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

"I have instructed City Hall that, moving forward, any party wishing to acquire land under its jurisdiction must meet the three criteria," he said after the Santun Madani programme with Kampung Datuk Keramat residents here yesterday.

Johari said Pasar Datuk Keramat had been at an impasse for six years due to a developer's failure to meet financial obligations and complete the redevelopment project.

Following this, he said, developers that do not meet criteria would not be approved for land acquisitions.

"We have seen how for six years the developer could not proceed

with the project, leaving damage unfixed. While the issue has been resolved, any privatisation effort involving City Hall land must ensure the criteria are strictly enforced."

In July, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim directed City Hall to address the redevelopment of the dilapidated Pasar Datuk Keramat.

He said the matter would be referred to Johari and the then Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Kamarulzaman Mat Salleh for further action.

Meanwhile, Johari said development projects must prioritise the needs of local traders and communities to ensure sustain-

able progress.

He said while there were currently no redevelopment plans for Pasar Datuk Keramat, any future redevelopment should not come at the expense of the traders who have been operating there for decades.

"While waiting to decide on the next steps, we must focus on refurbishment.

"If redevelopment is proposed in the future, it is crucial to have a clear plan for relocating the traders.

"We cannot allow projects that displace traders who have been here for 30 to 40 years. This is why we insisted on a win-win situation."