

Deputy Minister slams protest

Saravanan to meet affected Kampung Abdullah Hukum residents

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DEPUTY Federal Territories Minister Datuk M. Saravanan will meet residents of Kampung Abdullah Hukum who are unhappy over the delay in getting the keys to their new homes at Apartment Abdullah Hukum.

He said he would meet the affected residents on May 31 to come up with a solution.

Saravanan said the people should not resort to holding demonstrations but have discussions with the relevant authorities to resolve their problems.

"If they are not happy with the manner in which DBKL is handling the issues, they can approach the FT Ministry to discuss the problems in a cordial atmosphere, and not by holding banners and shouting," said Saravanan.

He said holding demonstrations with political reference was not going to help the situation.

"We should nip the culture of protest in the bud because it will create an impression that DBKL only

works when there is a protest.

"It should not be that way. I am not saying that there are no shortcomings in the DBKL as there certainly are, but we are working hard to overcome them," he said.

Referring to the protest led by Wangsa Maju MP Wee Choo Keong on Friday, Saravanan said if the people in his constituency were unhappy with something, Wee should have come forward as the MP representing the Wangsa Maju people to address the matter.

"Instead, we had Pakatan Rakyat MPs from all over at DBKL building. This is not politics. The demonstration is used by the Opposition to gain political mileage," he added.

Saravanan said he was not aware there was a second group of protesters who had gathered at the Kuala Lumpur City Hall on Friday morning in addition to the boisterous group of hawkers from Wangsa Maju who were unhappy with DBKL's demolition of their stalls.

"Due to the aggressive protest by the Wangsa Maju traders and several Opposition MPs, we were not aware that there was also another group of protesters from Kampung



Saravanan: 'I am not saying that there are no shortcomings in the DBKL ... but we are working hard to overcome them.'

Abdullah Hukum. I only knew about the issue when I saw the news on television on Friday night.

"I then made a call to a resident in Kampung Abdullah Hukum to obtain more information," he said in

»It is no longer an issue because we gave the traders three days to answer but they failed to respond«

DATUK SALLEH YUSUP

a phone interview with *StarMetro*.

About 30 residents had gathered at the DBKL building on Friday to submit a memorandum demanding that the local authority fulfil its promise of providing them units at an apartment project.

Although most households were given units at the Apartment Abdullah Hukum, the relocation of another 130 households had been delayed.

Meanwhile, DBKL director-general Datuk Salleh Yusup said the City Hall considered the Taman Desa Setapak trader issue closed.

"It is no longer an issue because we gave the traders three days to answer but they failed to respond. The land belongs to the government and now they have to go," he said.

On May 21, the DBKL had demolished 130 stalls in eight locations in Taman Desa Setapak.

Commenting on another demonstration staged by the Kampung Baru Weekend Market Traders and Welfare Association, Salleh said DBKL owned the land where the market was located.

The association had claimed the land was under the Selangor Development Corporation (PKNS) and did not belong to the DBKL.

"Transfer of the land ownership is already in the process. We obtained the land in 1986 and we have a right to redevelop the area.

"It will be a mixed development that will benefit everyone.

"We will give priority to the qualified local traders to do business once the development is completed."