

Eviction turns ugly at Kg Jinjang

7 defiant residents arrested by police as houses are torn down



CITY'S MIGHT: Kampung Jinjang Selatan Tambahan residents protest City Hall's demolition of their houses

Pic from Nanyang Siang Pau

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THEIR last ditch attempts to hold on to their homes — until they could get higher compensation — backfired very badly yesterday with seven defiant residents arrested by police.

The rest of the residents of the Jinjang Selatan Tambahan settlement could only watch from the sidelines as their homes for the past 40 years were torn down by City Hall staff — who also assisted them to move to their new units in the PPR Batu flats.

The operation started at 9am with some 150 City Hall men, and police, helping the residents pack and move their belongings to their new flats.

A resident, S. Susil Raj, 38, insisted that it was not that the residents were not willing to move out of their homes.

"We are being categorised as squatters although we had TOL licences until 1997. The compensation of RM1,000 offered to those

who move to PPR flats are benefits offered to squatters. But we are not squatters. No one is listening," Susil insisted.

"If we are given the rightful compensation we deserve, we would definitely move without hesitation. Unfortunately, this is not the case and no one seems to be bothered."

City Hall enforcement director Rolan Abdul Rahman alleged that some of his officers were provoked by the residents and one officer was punished.

"The officers were carrying out their duties but they were faced with resistance from the residents and a commotion broke out."

The residents had until yesterday to move out of their homes and move into the flats. But the residents — eager to save their homes — had even gone to the extent of trying to send a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in Parliament.

At the site, things got ugly when some of the residents resisted calls from the authorities to come out of their homes — which some had spent thousands of ringgit

to build over the years.

"Some of the residents were willing to move out," said Rolan. "Then, a group tried to resist our team and even went to the extent of not allowing residents to move out."

"We tried to bring out their items from the houses and at one stage, while we were carrying out the items, we were stopped from doing so."

Two reports were lodged by City Hall; one for obstruction and the other for violence inflicted on the enforcement officer.

Rolan said that as at 6pm yesterday, the houses had been demolished and the debris would be cleaned up by this week.

The land would later be handed over to a developer to make way for a road to connect Jalan Kepong and Jalan Segambut.

Meanwhile, Segambut MP Lim Lip Eng said it was a black day for the residents of Jinjang Selatan Tambahan, whose plight had not been really considered by the previous administration.

"I blame the previous administration for not taking into account that

these people were the residents of Kampung Malaysia, who were later split up into three groups when they shifted out. Some were relocated to Ampang and some to Jinjang Utara.

"The two other groups of residents, except for Jinjang Selatan Tambahan, have been given freehold land titles. But, the people of Jinjang Selatan Tambahan have been abandoned.

"Though they do not own the land in question, they have equitable rights to the building they lived in as they had spent a significant amount of money to build their houses.

"City Hall can take the land but it must compensate the residents for the buildings," Lim added.

Meanwhile, police confirmed they had detained seven people, including a woman, for using violence while public servants were performing their duties. The seventh was a member of a non-governmental organisation.

The seven, aged between 30 and 50, were taken to Sentul police headquarters and released after their statements were recorded.