

DBKL
demolishes
illegal structures
put up by NGO
on govt land in
Setiawangsa
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DBKL demolishing a concrete fence surrounding the offices of the NGO. — Courtesy photos

Enforcement officers overseeing the operations in Setiawangsa.

By **BAVANI M**
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AFTER issuing multiple notices to vacate, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) carried out a demolition operation at a site in Setiawangsa that had been occupied by non-governmental organisation (NGO) Insaf Malaysia.

The NGO had been operating on government land without authorisation for several years, according to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

"While I greatly appreciate its noble intentions in conducting charitable work, regulations and guidelines set by the authorities must be followed," she said.

"It had been allowed to operate for years on land belonging to the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office.

"However, several notices were issued to vacate the premises.

"When the NGO was unable to meet deadlines, we granted multiple extensions to give it time to find an alternative site."

Dr Zaliha said the NGO had expressed interest in acquiring the land but this was not possible since the site had been gazetted as an open space under the supervision of DBKL, which had plans to turn it into a park.

She added that the last extension granted to the NGO ended on Jan 31.

"However, the NGO has now requested an additional two weeks, stating that some cabins on-site needed to be cleared.

"Representatives of the NGO signed a letter of undertaking to

DBKL demolishes NGO's structures in Setiawangsa

Organisation gets two-week reprieve to remove other property



Action was taken against the NGO on Feb 3 after several extensions.

vacate and demolish the remaining structures within that two-week period.

"DBKL only proceeded with the demolition of vacant structures, in compliance with regulations.

"The three cabins that had not been vacated were not touched, as promised," Dr Zaliha said.

The demolition operation involved the removal of

structures which included two garages, one office unit, two cabins, an open kitchen, two toilets and the surrounding concrete fence.

StarMetro had previously reported that several engagement sessions had been held with the NGO since December 2023 and that multiple notices to vacate had been issued.

However, an Insaf Malaysia

voluntary evacuation, the NGO was given a 14-day order to vacate.

> A meeting chaired by the Prime Minister's political secretary on Dec 3 led to enforcement postponement until Jan 31, 2025.

> An eviction notice was issued by DBKL on Dec 5, ordering the occupants to vacate.

> Through a letter of undertaking dated Dec 12, Insaf agreed to vacate the site.

> A joint demolition operation on Feb 3 cleared most structures except for three cabins, which the NGO pledged to demolish within two weeks.

Chronology of events

> Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) Enforcement Department acted on a complaint from its Setiawangsa branch regarding unauthorised structures built by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) on encroached land.

> Notices were issued to Insaf Malaysia on March 26 and May 17, 2024, to cease operations.

> An appeal by the NGO was rejected by Federal Territories Land and Mines Office on Aug 7.

> After a meeting on Sept 24 with stakeholders to facilitate

DBKL gives 30-day extension to NGO occupying govt land

By FARID WAHAB
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A NON-GOVERNMENTAL organisation (NGO) based in Setiawangsa, Kuala Lumpur, ordered to vacate government-owned land, has been given a 30-day extension.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has given Insaf Malaysia until Nov 30 to move out from Jalan Setiawangsa 5A.

The extension was granted on Oct 14 to relocate.

DBKL, however, rejected the NGO's request for a six-month extension since the initial notice to vacate was dated May 17.

"Enforcement will take place at any time after the extension period expires," said DBKL in a letter, which also stated that its Landscape and Recreational Department had plans to upgrade the area but this had been delayed due to existing obstructions.

The land in question is Lot 210W, which is located behind

Insaf founder and president Ishaq Abdul Kadir said that in addition to the extension, he had requested that DBKL consider the organisation's request to rent the site.

"We have been operating here for nearly six years while helping the nearby."

"We are pleading with the authorities for compassion as we have no where else to store our

DBKL had also distributed notices in the Setiawangsa area about a town hall meeting set for Nov 16 to discuss the plan.

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Flashback to StarMetro report on Oct 9

StarMetro reported on Oct 9 that City Hall was planning to build a park and a sports facility.

For the past few years, Insaf has been using the space as storage and to store machinery for the

StarMetro report on Nov 16, 2024.

representative expressed frustration with how the situation was handled.

"We needed more time to find an alternative site," the representative said.