

PEOPLE'S HOUSING PROJECT

PROTESTERS MEET ZURAIDA OVER PPR

Minister tells Kg Tok Suboh residents that her ministry will review their applications for units

BALVIN KAUR
BUKIT MERTAJAM
balvinkaur@nst.com.my

A GROUP of over 50 former residents of Kampung Tok Suboh created a ruckus during the People's Housing Project (PPR) rent-to-own scheme launch ceremony here yesterday.

The group stormed into the multipurpose hall, where Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin was giving out offer letters to 20 of the 80 residents whose application for the 700-square-foot PPR units had been approved, and demanded to meet her.

The tension was diffused when Zuraida invited them for an impromptu dialogue.

During the 10-minute session, a representative of the residents, Rosli Shukor, 43, claimed that the residents had submitted their application more than six months ago to the Penang Regional Development Authority (Perda), but did not receive any response.

"We are upset as we have been



Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin (left) having a discussion with former residents of Kampung Tok Suboh in Bukit Mertajam, Penang, yesterday. PIC BY RAMDZAN MASIAM

living in Kampung Tok Suboh for years and now we have been kicked out."

Zuraida called on the residents to remain calm and assured them that a favourable solution would be reached.

"Your application to Perda did not reach us but I will station an officer outside this hall today so all of you can apply again.

"We will review your application and if you meet the requirements, we will offer you the available units."

Zuraida said that there were 231 PPR units in the area, of which only 80 had been offered to identified applicants.

"There are still some 150 units available."

Those whose application was

not approved would be put on a priority KIV (keep in view) list for PPR units in other areas and of future PPR developments.

Former resident Hamidah Che Embi, 51, said they were grateful to be heard and be offered a positive solution.

Residents of Kampung Tok Suboh, which has existed since 1950s, had been facing eviction

since 2013 after the land was sold off in 2012.

Relief came in 2016 when the state government agreed to build houses worth RM120,000 on a neighbouring piece of land for a nominal price of RM25,000.

Kampung Tok Suboh is in the middle of the Bukit Minyak industrial area in Bukit Mertajam, Penang.