

50 ex-Kampung Tok Suboh residents gatecrash PPR rent-to-own scheme launch

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BUKIT MERTAJAM: A group of former residents of Kampung Tok Suboh created a ruckus during a People's Housing Project (PPR) rent-to-own scheme launch ceremony at the village, here, today.

The group of more than 50 had stormed into the multipurpose hall and demanded to meet Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

She was handing offer letters to 20 of the 80 village residents whose applications for the 65sq m PPR units had been approved.

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 applications more than six months ago to the Penang Regional Development Authority (Perda), but did not get a response.

"We are upset as we have been living in Kampung Tok Suboh for years, and now we have been kicked out," he said.

Zuraida told 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 applications and if you meet the requirements, we will offer you the available units," she said.

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

"There are still some 150 units available," she said, adding that those whose applications were not approved would be put on a priority KIV (keep in view) list for PPR units in other areas and in future PPR developments.

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

The 2ha village located in the middle of the Bukit Minyak industrial area in Bukit Mertajam had been in existence since the 1950s. The villagers had been facing eviction since 2013 after the land was sold 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.