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SENARAI AKHBAR	TAJUK
Utusan Malaysia	
Berita Harian	
Harian Metro	
Kosmo !	
Sinar Harian	
The Star	
New Straits Time	
Nanyang Siang Pau	
Malaysia Gazette	
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Malaysia Dateline	
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See Hua Daily News (Kuching)	
Guan Ming Daily	
Borneo Post (KK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Illegal squatter structures in Sepanggar to be demolished

JENIS AKHBAR							MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
UTUSAN MALAYSIA		KOSMO !		THE STAR		NANYANG SIANG PAU		
BERITA HARIAN		SINAR HARIAN		THE SUN		ORIENTAL DAILY		
HARIAN METRO		NEW STRAITS TIMES		THE MALAY MAIL		PELBAGAI BORNEO POST (KK)		
KATEGORI LIPUTAN : POSITIF			NEGATIF		NEUTRAL			

Illegal squatter structures in Sepanggar to be demolished

KOTA KINABALU: Illegal structures built on 150 acres of land belonging to the Fisheries Department in Sepanggar will be demolished soon.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey Kitingan said the land, which is part of the department's 260 acres land, has already been earmarked for development projects for the Greater Kota Kinabalu.

This will include large-scale projects by the current administration to develop a smart city on this land. This issue has been decided and agreed upon by the cabinet.

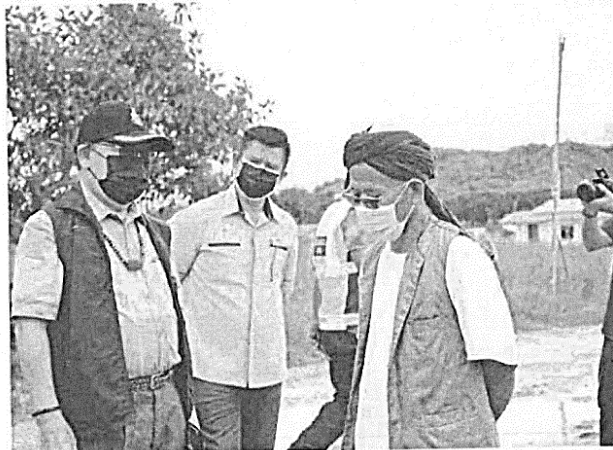
The GRS government is serious about developing this land and ensuring that it is not encroached upon by outsiders, particularly those who have no right to be in Sabah in the first place," he said.

Kitingan, who is also the Agriculture and Fisheries Minister made the remarks on Friday after visiting the squatters in the self-proclaimed Kg Warisan in Sepanggar.

Around 800 illegal structures dotted the width and breadth of the 150-acre land. Some structures are hidden deep within the mangrove forests, making it difficult for the authorities to enforce the law.

Furthermore, power theft is rampant in the area and most of the live cables are buried underground, putting enforcement personnel at risk of electrocution whenever they attempt to access these squatters.

Apart from the 'Kg Warisan', squatters in the areas have organised themselves in two other self-declared villages namely Kg Berunai and Kg Juara.



Kitingan speaking to one of the residents.

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Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey Kitingan

"They have actually tried several times to get the government to recognise them as official villages. But this cannot be allowed because the land belongs to the Fisheries Department.

"Several demolition exercises have been carried out in the past,

but people can be tenacious. The government demolished several structures only to see new structures replacing them in a matter of months.

"It is, without a doubt, a cancer that must be eradicated once and for all," he said.

During his visit, Kitingan also

met with several squatters in the area, advising them not to allow any more people to build homes there because the structures will be demolished anyway, and informing them of the government's plan for the land.

"We must safeguard our assets, but we must also consider the plight of genuine Sabahans who live there. I understand that some of the squatters include government servants too," he said.

At the same time, Kitingan urged the Fisheries Department to submit proposals on how to fully utilise the land once it has been cleared of squatters.