

THE process to degazette part of the Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve is now in its final stages of implementation.

"This involves Compartment 19, which is about 28.3ha for development by the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) and Spanland Sdn Bhd," said state environment, green technology, science, technology, innovation and consumer affairs committee chairman Hee Loy Sian.

"Two town hall sessions were held in February 2019 in Gombak. These sessions were chaired by me and attended by representatives of relevant state and Federal Government agencies.

"The Public Investigation Committee will hold a meeting after the town hall sessions to finalise recommendations to the state exco (MMKN) based on the objections the committee received."

Hee replied a question by Elizabeth Wong (PKR - Bukit Lanjan) on forest reserve degazette in Selangor.

"As for the Kuala Langat Selatan Forest Reserve, no public hearing has been held yet as the forest

Degazettement of forest reserve nearly complete

S'gor to finalise matter after analysing recommendations, objections

reserve has not been identified for degazette," he said.

Hee added that no permanent forest reserves were degazetted this year.

On Forest Research Institute Malaysia's (FRIM) status as a Unesco world heritage site, Hee said the National Heritage Department stated that it was still in the nomination process.

"The tentative list document for FRIM was sent to Unesco on Jan 31, 2017," he said, adding that the list must be submitted at least a year before the complete nomination

dossier is sent.

"A panel of appointed experts are working on the complete nomination dossier and other necessary documents that are expected to be submitted to Unesco in 2022," he added.

On Wong's follow-up question regarding the status of the Kuala Langat Selatan Forest Reserve that she heard would be degazetted for development, Hee said it was actually the Kuala Langat Utara Forest Reserve, but he did not have the required information.

Lau Weng San (DAP - Banting)

asked a supplementary question on the decision to grant permits to farmers planting crops in the Kuala Langat Selatan Forest Reserve.

"This issue was brought up at the end of last year. What are the problems affecting the paperwork on this matter that no decision has been made by the Selangor Economic Action Council (MTES) or MMKN?" asked Lau.

Hee said the Selangor Forestry Department had tabled papers twice to legalise the land for farming.

"Both papers were temporarily rejected and needed to be further

refined," he said, adding that among the challenges faced included the huge farming area, that farmers involved were over 400, and that many of the Orang Asli farmers planted oil palm which was not a permissible crop.

"There are also concerns about the number of years that can be allowed for farming, how enforcement can be implemented after that period ends and that commercial-scale farming is not allowed at a forest reserve."

Hee hoped the paper would be tabled and approved by this year.