

Jakoa to meet over overlapping land issue

KUALA LUMPUR: The Orang Asli Development Department (Jakoa) will hold a central management meeting on Monday to resolve the land overlap issue involving the community at Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve in Sepang, Selangor.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, P. Waytha Moorthy, said the ministry had taken note of the issue and action was being taken.

"Jakoa has already applied for the area (Orang Asli settlement) to be gazetted on Sept 20, 2017.

"However, due to technicalities, a more detailed study was required and we are still waiting for the state government's decision," he said yesterday.

He said the area involved was identified as the living area for Orang Asli of four settlements – Bukit Kecil, Bukit Cheeding, Busut Baru and Pulau Kempas – with a total population of 1,049.

The Orang Asli are protesting the proposed degazetting of 930ha within the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve area.

The Selangor Forestry Department had placed a notice of the proposed degazetting in major dailies on Feb 5, inviting stakeholders in the district to voice their objections within 30 days.

This is in accordance with the Public Inquiry (Selangor) Rules 2014, as well as the National Forestry Act (Adoption) Enactment 1985, which makes the exercise (placement of notice) compulsory before a forest reserve can be degazetted.

Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar, who is also the Kuala Langat MP, had voiced his objection against the proposal. — Bernama