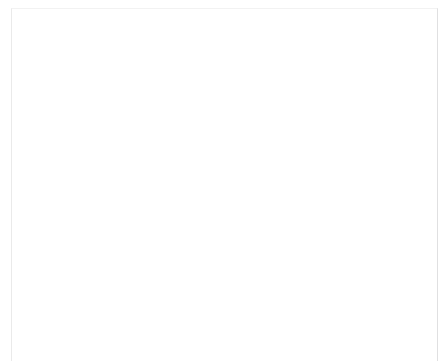


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Varsity students arrested for protesting Kg Chubadak Tambahan demolition out on bail (VIDEO)

Tuesday, 28 Oct 2014 08:11 PM MYT
BY MELISSA CHI



IN MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 28 — After four hours of questioning, two university student activists were released today on police bail after being detained during the protest at Kg Chubadak Tambahan, one of the first Malay settlements in Sentul that is slated to be torn down.

Abdul Muqit Muhammad, a 23-year-old University Malaya student, and Ahmad Fahmi Mokhtar, a 23-year-old from another university, were released at about 6.30pm today.

“One of the officers asked if I wanted to appeal. So I said yes, then he said, ‘If you want to appeal, kneel before me’.

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"Then I said forget it; if you want to make a police report, just do it," Abdul Muqit alleged in an interview with *Malay Mail Online*.

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精彩大马

The students said lawyers Noor Azmir Zakaria from the Department of Legal and Human Rights (JUHAM) and Wong Kar Fai from Suaram were with the duo when they were questioned.

The group, which at one point swelled to about 80, started gathering outside the Sentul police headquarters at around 4pm.

They held up makeshift placards that said "Student Power", "*Bebas Mahasiswa* (Release the students), "*Mahasiswa bukan penjenayah*" (Students are not criminals), among others.

The peaceful protest attended by mostly Malay, male students became slightly rowdy after two officers approached student activist Fahmi Zainol and told him that two of the students could go into the police station.

But after Fahmi went in, the police closed the gates on them, prompting the students to yell out "*Polis penipu*" ("Police are liars").

The crowd quickly settled down and sat in front of the police station as the Federal Reserve Unit appeared on standby behind the gates in the police compound.

Abdul Muqit, Ahmad Fahmi and about eight other students joined about 40 Kg Chubadak Tambahan residents at the protest this morning when the developer and KL City Hall (DBKL) came to demolish a home.



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Settlers of Kg Chubadak Tambahan have challenged local authorities over ownership of the land parcel in Sentul from which they were evicted earlier this year.

In July, the KL High Court ruled that the villagers have no right to claim ownership over the land as they are “squatters” on state-owned land, citing a Federal Court ruling in 1982 that declared the latter as having no right either in law or equity.

The villagers claim they have a right to the land in Kg Chubadak Tambahan as they are among the first people to settle down there.

In 1998, the Kuala Lumpur High Court decided that the land in Kg Chubadak belonged to the people who had started the village. The court added that if the area was to be developed the settlers must be compensated with an amount equal to the value of their settlement.

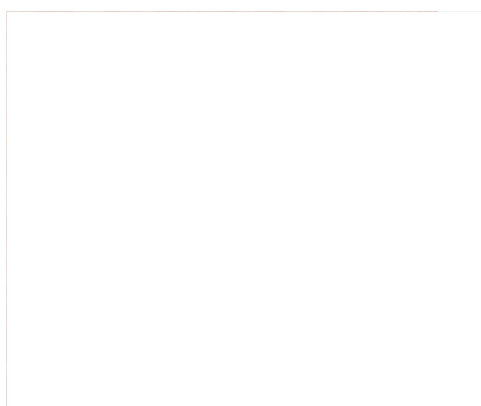
A Court of Appeal decision in 2000 had also refuted claims that they were squatters and trespassers, insisting that they occupied the land as licensees and with the consent of the state authority.

In 2008, however, DBKL listed Kg Chubadak Tambahan as a squatter settlement under the 2020 Kuala Lumpur City Plan, together with five other villages.

In June, DBKL moved in to demolish homes on the contested piece of land, choosing not to wait for the court’s decision before proceeding, after already deciding that the villagers were squatters.

DBKL’s move to evict the villagers and destroy their homes has drawn flak from both sides of the political divide.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Mansor had said the eviction was necessary to pave way for a low-cost housing development.



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