

State land in Perak being sold off illegally

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By **IVAN LOH**

ivanloh@thestar.com.my

IPOH: Parcels of state land in Perak are being illegally sold off by individuals and syndicates, with some plots going for as low as RM500, says Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

He added that these unscrupulous people would offer the plots with prices of between RM5,000 and RM10,000 each depending on the size.

In one case, a 0.8ha plot in the state was offered for sale at only RM500.

He said the issue was serious and the state was now inspecting all affected areas for such illegal transactions.

"It is happening in all areas, scattered throughout the state.

"I've instructed the state Land and Mines Department and the district and land offices to check the affected areas," he told reporters after chairing the state executive council meeting here yesterday.

"We have already identified some of those responsible and we are still trying to determine the losses suffered by the victims," he added.

Dr Zambry said the unscrupulous individuals or syndicates would first clear and cultivate a piece of land without permission.

"They would then 'divide' the land into lots before selling them to potential buyers.

"Those who buy the lots would be assured that they would get the land titles from the state, only for their applications to be rejected later because the transactions were illegal," he said.

"This is cheating. It is unfortunate that the victims have fallen for it. Some of them have spent all their savings (to buy the land)," he added.

Dr Zambry reminded the people that they should check with the state authorities before buying land.

"They must make sure it is done legally. The seller must also show the land title," he said, adding that those who have been cheated should report it to the police.

On another matter, Dr Zambry commended the Ipoh City Council for being named the best local council in the country.

He urged the local authorities not to be complacent and to continue working hard for the betterment of their departments and the people.

"Never in history has the city council ever got first.

"A big congratulation should be conveyed to the city council and also the local governments that got five-star ratings. The city council should continue working hard to be in the top five, if not the top three," Dr Zambry said.

"It is important that we stay consistent and there is still room for improvement."

On Monday, Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar named Ipoh City Council as the best local authority for 2016.

The choice was based on the ministry's star rating system which aimed to motivate the municipal councils to improve their services.

The Ipoh council received a five-star rating with a score of 97.45, beating 148 other municipal councils.