



IMPORTANT BRIEFING...Gambut (standing on the left) briefing the heads of families during the gathering held on Wednesday.

Pulau P'pang folks to continue defending Kampung reserve

KOTA KINABALU: Villagers of Kg Pulau Pinampang in Menggatal will continue to pursue whatever means available to defend their Kampung reserve status.

This was stated by Village Head, KK Dewith Gambut who said he and other leaders will continue to fight for their rights, after the High Court ruled that they are not illegal squatters under the law.

He gave the assurance at thanksgiving gathering to mark the conclusion of the High Court trial, at their village on Wednesday night.

Gambut also took the opportunity to thank former Assemblymen Datuk Steven Kutai and Datuk Yong Teck Lee, and their lawyer, Datuk Douglas Primus, for their

support in defending the kampung reserve status.

The said kampung reserve was approved by previous Chief Ministers for the purpose of re-settling villagers of Kg Sungai Prai, Kg Boyong and Kg Binolong who were displaced by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) project in 1994 – 1999.

Before the Kampung reserve was gazetted in time, the State Government in 2002 decided to re-locate a Projek Perumahan Rakyat (Peoples Housing Project or PPR) at the Kg Pulau Pinampang.

The proposed PPR project was first located at the Tanjung Aru Hone Place, but was later shelved after public outcry against the choice of location, especially citing poten-

tial environmental impact to the surrounding area.

On February 10 this year, the High Court quashed the eviction order issued by the ACLR in 2001 and ruled that the villagers must be paid compensation first before they can be evicted.

Yong and Kutai had also assured the villagers that they would continue to defend the kampung reserve status of Kg Pulau Pinampang.

Yong also expressed surprise as to why the State Government is insisting on siting the PPR project at Kg Pulau Pinampang when there are many other suitable sites available in the City.

Also present at the gathering were Primus and JKKK Chairman Kinsui Guril. – *Michael Teh*