



The back half of these rows of terrace houses started coming down two weeks ago. It was on this desolate road at Kampung Sentul Pasar that we met Raja. His family is one of a handful left

inhabiting the remains of houses, which once provided shelter for KTM staff. Sections of his roof are covered with frittered sheets of tarp.

“I'm okay with being resettled in a flat,” says Raja in Tamil. “But why send me and my family packing to a place deep at the fringe of Puchong? How do I start again? How do I find work? I was born and raised here in Sentul Pasar. My support is here. *Sini boleh cari kerja – tolong bawa lori, angkat barang.* It's as good as taking away my livelihood.”

His voice remains even, but it gets raspy from the built-up frustration. “*Macam mana mau dapat susu untuk anak?*” he gestures towards the direction of his wife and five-month-old baby.

Raja's problems highlight the core issues in the nation's task of resettlement and the urban poor. It's one thing to have a Zero Squatter policy, but another when we examine the means to this end. Current mechanisms lack a basic virtue: Heart.

We can do better

Written by straits-mongrel

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These are human beings here.

For too long, we have relied on Cold War-era social housing ideas and methods. We cannot rely on just one model – the 750 sq ft high-rise apartment unit – for the whole country. Nor can we simply decouple a family from its roots and economic links. True, these projects provide shelter. But they sever ties. They are not conducive for larger families. In many instances, these resettlement exercises are a continuing stigma to those who have been relocated.

And how do you accommodate members such as these?:



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Full body photo of a BOBO, the various snail-like individuals where the pants are you



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North Korea landing grounds in Cuba, SA, China. Among the topics discussed will be urban