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Bird farm noise proving hard to swallow

JAKKRIT WAEWKLAHONG

TRAT: Provincial governor Prasert Luechanont yesterday ordered local administrative agencies to roll out measures to address complaints about noise pollution caused by barn swallow farms.

Speaking at a meeting about the complaints at City Hall in Muang district yesterday, Mr Prasert told local authorities and officials from relevant agencies across the province's seven districts to solve the problem by June 11.

Measures must be implemented so that swallow farms and local communities can live in harmony, he said.

The move comes after residents in Muang Trat municipality complained about noise coming from barn swallow farms in their locality.

According to the complaints, several buildings in municipal areas were turned into swallow farms which emit recorded swallow chirping noises to attract the birds.

Mr Prasert insisted swallow farm operators must comply with the law, saying public health is a concern as these farms could also cause pollution due to swallow

droppings.

During the meeting, Mr Prasert had been briefed by the province's district chiefs and local officials about several issues concerning swallow farming.

Acting Muang Trat municipal clerk Mongkol Rattatanawin said the municipality had received a number of requests seeking permission to turn residential buildings into swallow farms.

The municipality later inspected these farms after receiving complaints and found that the sound levels did not exceed the legal limit.

However, Manas Prunghamnu, from the Provincial Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office, said several buildings were extended to serve as farms illegally.

Legal action should have been pursued, however, local authorities failed to strictly enforce the law, he said.

Kanok Jairak, head of the Wang Krachae tambon administrative organisation, said swallow farms cannot operate in community areas unless they receive the consent of their neighbours. This could be the solution to solving the noise problems, he said.