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Pemenang appeals for recovery of land

PENANG, Wed. - The Penang Malay Association has appealed to the Prime Minister's Department to recover land worth RM10.6 million in the interest of the urban Malay community in the State.

Pemenang president Datuk Mohd Yusoff Latiff said a memorandum was sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Jan 21 but the association has yet to receive any reply.

He said the three lots of land totalling about seven hectares in the Georgetown area was purchased in 1982 by Syarikat Nusantara Pulau Pinang Bhd for RM10.64 million.

"Syarikat Nusantara paid RM1.6 million, while the balance of RM9.5 million was made through a loan from a local non-Bumiputera finance company.

"The plan to build 1,656 units of flats and 72 shop houses and a parking lot on the land was approved by the Penang Island Municipal Council in 1987.

"However due to the economic downturn from 1985 to 1988, the project fell through as the company encountered difficulties in servicing the loan which stood at about RM22.7 million as at Aug 1991."

Mohd Yusoff said the property had been foreclosed by the finance company in 1992.

He said Pemenang would like to propose the re-implementation of the planned housing projects for the benefit of the urban Malay community through the following action plan:

- \* Umno leaders to negotiate with the finance company to buy back the property at an annual interest of five per cent, based on the sale price of RM14.5 million.

- \* A fully-owned Bumiputera company to be formed to develop the planned housing project.

- \* Financial support in terms of loans from the Federal Government, needed for the purchase of the land and building cost, to be channelled through local banks and financial institutions, and

- \* Renewal of building plans for property by liaising with the MPPP.

(END)