

Mosque land sale: Penang Umno Youth won't back off
MalaysiaKini.com
March 29, 2012
By Susan Loone

Penang Umno Youth chief Shaik Hussein Mydin is not fazed by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's threat to initiate legal action against him for accusing Lim of selling off a plot of land assigned for a mosque in Bayan Mutiara.

When contacted, Shaik Hussein adamantly visited Penang 291211 Penang Umno Youth Chief Shaikh Hussein Mydin (right) shook off the threat, saying "send Guan Eng my regards".

"Let him know that I will also take him to court the day I receive the letter from his lawyer," he told Malaysiakini.

Shaik Hussein said he would take Lim to court over the Bayan Mutiara land deal, which he described as a "scandal" and that in time, the people would come to know "everything" about the matter.

In the meantime, he would work to get an injunction to halt development on the 41.6-hectare parcel situated south of the Penang bridge and within the Bayan Lepas Free Trade Zone, until the court case was settled.

"Ask him (Lim) to think twice before doing anything. There will be no retreat, no surrender," Shaik Hussein warned.

Yesterday, Lim threatened legal action against Shaik Hussein and Umno-owned daily Utusan Malaysia, for harping on his purported action of selling land for the mosque, and thus, angering the Muslim Malay majority in the country.

'Shaik Hussein, Utusan playing with racial sentiments'

Lim accused Shaik Hussein and Utusan of "playing with racial sentiments" to slander him and the state government, saying he was left with no choice but to initiate legal action against them.

He lamented that his clarification not published by the daily, therefore requiring him to "expose the truth" in an open court.

Penang Umno chief Zainal Abidin Osman claimed Lim had not answered questions on the mosque land posed to him.

NONE "Why does he not want to answer the question about the sale of the plot of land reserved for the mosque? The rakyat want to know," the former Nibong Tebal MP tweeted today.

"The CM is afraid of the rakyat. (He wants to) answer in court after the 13th general election. He thinks he will be safe (by then)," Zainal Abidin (right) added.

A group of students from Universiti Sains Malaysia also plan to lodge a report on the land sale at the Jalan Pattani northeast district police headquarters today.

Last week, Utusan quoted Shaik Hussein as saying that Lim had no right to intervene and touch the "property" of the Muslims as this was a dangerous act that would anger Muslims in the country.

In the report titled Guan Eng biadab tergamak jual tapak masjid, the newspaper accused Lim of "arrogance and rudeness" for selling the plot of land planned for a mosque that had been approved in

2006 under the original Bayan Mutiara development plan.

Umno leaders have questioned the sale of the land by state agency Penang Development Corporation to Ivory Properties Group Bhd for RM1.2 billion, claiming it was not done via an open tender.

Lim and Ivory Properties have issued statements insisting that the land sale was conducted via an open tender, where the deal was sweetened by reducing the term of payment from eight to five years.

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