

Who will stop illegal demolition of 'heritage' building?

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I am a resident around Pykett Avenue, Penang.

Last week, a mansion on the land was demolished and was done without approval given by the Municipal Council of Penang Island (MPPP).

The matter was reported in a Chinese daily, Kwong Wah Yit Poh.

I believed that the local council was waiting for a report on the possible heritage status of the mansion before deciding whether a demolition order can be given.

It is shocking that owners can flout the law so easily. The owners and "others" may say that the mansion has yet to be listed as "heritage."

If buildings can be demolished and the council will just fine the owners, NO HERITAGE BUILDING in Penang is safe.

What can prevent owners from demolishing any building including those listed as heritage?

If a fine is the only deterrence, we might as well kiss the UNESCO listing goodbye.

The only effective deterrence is to deny planning permission in the next 20 to 50 years!

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