

Umno Youth man wants to return RM23,700 of 'duit haram'
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GEORGE TOWN - Penang Umno Youth chief Norman Zahalan brought a bag of money to the State Assembly building compound, claiming it contained RM23,700 of "duit haram" which he wanted to return to the state government.

He said he was doing so on behalf of 600 elderly folk who did not want the money from the state's Senior Citizens Appreciation Programme as they feared that the funds came from gaming activities.

Besides showing the plastic bag of money, Norman demanded to meet "any state executive councillor" Tuesday, according to The Star.

Norman shoved Deputy Chief Minister II Dr P. Ramasamy's political aide M. Satees aside when the latter informed him that no one was available to see him.

"Why are they so scared? These guys keep harping about Umno collecting back the RM100 from each senior citizen but not returning it to the state. Well, here I am but they won't receive it," he said.

He left half an hour later after being persuaded to do so by several government officers.

State Health, Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh said the state would not receive money from an "agent".

"Norman is here to cause trouble. The procedure (to return the money) is clear," he was quoted as saying by The Star.

He said the state had announced on Oct 25 the mechanism to return the money.

"Those who do not want the RM100 must give it back to the issuing body, which is the District Office. Just fill up a form along with your thumbprint and a photocopy of your MyKad," he said.

Meanwhile, police detained a man who kept shouting despite an order for demonstrators outside the State Assembly building to disperse.

He was among 100-odd protestors, were landowners from Kampung Genting in Balik Pulau and Komtar kiosk traders, who were upset over land acquisition and relocation issues.

A group of Parti Cinta Malaysia members was also there to protest the 27% increase in water charges and the Penang Municipal Council's move to collect parking fees from 9am to midnight.

George Town OCPD Asst Comm Gan Kong Meng said the organisers of the protest would be charged with holding a demonstration without a permit. .

