

Ex-MCA rep used to own mansion

PENANG: A former Penang MCA stalwart used to own the 99-door mansion in Nibong Tebal but later resold it to a businessman in Perak.

Ng Swee Ching, 81, who served as Bukit Tambun assemblyman from 1974-1982, bought the property from a Kuala Lumpur-based businessman in the early 1960s.

Ng was also Nibong Tebal MCA chief in the late 1960s.

"The businessman, involved in pawnshop business, had bought the 99-door mansion

and the surrounding plantation land known as Byram Estate from Penang Estate Co Ltd, a British-owned company," he said.

Ng said at that time Penang Estate Co Ltd owned the Transkrian Estate, Victoria Estate, Byram Estate, Caledonia Estate, Changkat Estate, Jawi Estate, Simpah Estate and Krian Estate in Nibong Tebal.

He said he bought from the businessman a portion of Byram Estate of about 16ha which included the 99-door

mansion.

"I paid between RM70,000 and RM80,000 for the property," he added.

Ng said when he bought the mansion in the early 1960s, the property was still in good condition.

"I did not stay at the mansion but I can remember that it has many doors and was referred to as the 99-door mansion by the locals.

"Originally, I wanted to go into the rubber business but things did not work out

"I then sold it to the Lee family from Perak in the early 1970s.

"It is sad to see that the mansion in a state of ruin. I hope the owner would do something to rehabilitate the building," he added.

Ng said the son of the Penang Estate Co Ltd owner stayed in the mansion just after World War II.

"He was killed by the Communists at the mansion during the emergency in the late 1940s," he added.