

**Guan Eng says Penang cash handouts an anti-corruption dividend**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 8 — Lim Guan Eng said today Penang's cash handouts were a reward for "your courage" in choosing a clean government and which were not paid out under the previous corrupt Barisan Nasional (BN) administration.

The Penang chief minister also implied that the BN federal government's RM500 handout to households earning less than RM3,000 a month under the Bantuan Rakyat 1 Malaysia (BR1M) scheme was vote-buying.

"The Pakatan Rakyat (PR) Penang state government is paying you every year, not once every five years as this is not a naked attempt to buy votes but to demonstrate your courage in choosing a clean government.

"This annual sum you receive is an anti-corruption dividend, which you did not receive in the past due to the previous culture of corruption," the DAP secretary-general said in an open letter to the senior citizens of Penang today.

The Bagan MP pointed out that this was the third year senior citizens in the island were receiving an annual payment of RM100.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin had rejected criticisms last month Putrajaya's RM500 handout to lower-income families was a bribe ahead of a general election that must be called by April 2013.

The deputy prime minister said it was public money redirected to those in need regardless of their background and political ideology.

Lim also listed today a similar annual payment to single mothers and the disabled as well as RM1,000 one-off contributions to the beneficiaries on the demise of senior citizens and these less fortunate people.

The Golden Child and Golden Student programmes also see babies born from January 1, 2011 being given a one-off payment of RM200 and an annual RM100 payment to primary and secondary students in Standard 1 and 4 and Form 1 and 4, he said.

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