

**Residents Furious Over Penang Govt's Refusal To Engage In Dialogue**  
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GEORGE TOWN, Feb 19 (Bernama) -- About 200 residents of Kampung Pokok Asam, Jelutong, who are facing eviction, are furious over the Penang government's refusal to engage in a dialogue on their plight.

Jelutong Residents Action Committee chairman Zarus Yusof said the residents were bewildered over the lackadaisical attitude shown by Penang Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Mansor Othman and Jelutong Member of Parliament Jeff Ooi for not responding to their request for a dialogue.

Zarus said the committee had sent numerous letters to the duo to seek a dialogue on their objection against their land being acquired for a housing project and a burial site since they were notified in October last year.

"We wanted to know who is the public housing for? How much will the houses fetch? Who will occupy them? Why on the land that we had occupied for so long while there are many vacant land nearby?" he told reporters here today.

Zarus said despite being threatened with legal action, the residents were adamant in rejecting compensation of between RM14,000 and RM180,000 offered by the district and land office.

The one ha Kampung Pokok Asam, which is said to be 100 years old, is earmarked for a luxury housing project and a cemetery to be built by a developer from Kuala Lumpur.

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