

**Penang BN Youth stumps up cash deposit for Taman Manggis**  
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**By Opalyn Mok**

GEORGE TOWN, Oct 3 — Penang Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth handed over a RM224,073 deposit today to the state government for its proposed purchase of the disputed Taman Manggis land.

BN Youth chief Oh Tong Keong and his supporters brought the amount in cash together with a letter of intent to the state government administrative office here this morning.

"This money is 1 per cent of the proposed total price of the cost of the land the state government wants to sell to us," he said.

Oh said the offer letter to sell the land by the state government stated the price at RM450 psf.

"It did not state the exact land size, location or lot number so we have to prepare our copy of letter of intent to purchase the land" he said.

Oh said they had to bring RM224,073 in cash to hand over to the state government as the latter's offer letter did not give them a payee name or bank account number so they could not issue a cheque.

"Since we do not know who to make out the cheque to or what account to bank in to, we have to bring it all in cash to hand it over," he said.

However, the BN Youth representatives were stopped from entering the state government's administrative office in Komtar and were met by the chief minister's confidential secretary Farida-Hani M.Yacob instead.

Farida told Oh that they could not accept cash and requested that a bank draft be issued to the state treasurer. The group immediately proceeded to the bank downstairs to obtain a bank draft.

Oh handed over the bank draft to Farida together with the letter of intent by BN to purchase the 1.143-acre (0.45ha) Taman Manggis land located along Jalan Zainal Abidin and Lorong Selamat.

In the letter, BN stated that the land would be managed by a company formed by Penang BN called Taman Manggis Fasa 2 Development Sdn Bhd. It also agreed to purchase the lot at RM450 psf as offered by the state government.

Penang BN's Letter of Intent to purchase Taman Manggis from the state government.

"Now that we have handed over the earnest money to show our sincerity to buy that land, we will wait for the state government to come up with a sale and purchase agreement (S&P) as per the normal procedure involved in purchasing land," Oh said.

He said once BN gets the S&P, they will give the 10 per cent deposit to the state government.

"We also agree to the state government's plan to use this money from the sale of the Taman Manggis land to build public housing in Jalan SP Chelliah so we hope the state government will keep to their word," he said.

Oh said once the land purchase is finalised, they will build low-cost housing for the poor on the site as per the original plan.

The Taman Manggis issue made headlines when Penang BN Youth raised an uproar over the land being sold off to a medical centre with plans to build a facility on the land which is located in George Town, just outside the buffer area of the heritage zone.

Penang BN Youth had claimed that the land was allocated for low-cost housing and that there was corruption involved when the state government sold it off to Kuala Lumpur International Dental Centre (KLIDC) for only RM200 psf.

Oh had said the land could be sold at double the price but it was sold at far below the market rate and in response, Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng offered to sell the land to Penang BN at RM450 psf since the documentation of the sale to KLIDC had yet to be finalised as the latter could not obtain a permit to build a hospital there.

Early last month, the state government sent an offer letter to Penang BN offering to sell the land to them at RM450 psf.

Penang BN immediately set up Taman Manggis Fasa 2 Development Sdn Bhd to purchase the land in response.

Lim refused to respond to this recent development in the case yet, when met by reporters a few hours after Penang BN had handed over the money, saying, "I've not got the full information on this yet so let me see it first before I make any comments."

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