

**Penang BN told to pay balance RM22m to buy Taman Manggis land**  
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**By Opalyn Mok**

GEORGE TOWN, Oct 4 — Penang Barisan Nasional will have to pay the balance of RM22,183,227 to purchase the disputed Taman Manggis land from the state government.

The political secretary to the Penang chief minister, Ng Wei Aik, said the state government was prepared to transfer the land ownership of the 49,794 sq ft site to Penang BN at RM450 psf or in total RM22,407,300 with the condition that BN builds a public housing project on that land.

“Eventhough they have paid earnest money amounting to RM224,073, we will need them to pay the full amount. So, now they will need to pay the balance of RM22,183,227,” he said.

Ng said the state government would need to get the full payment before the land alienation could be done and a land title could be issued to the company set up by BN to purchase the land, Taman Manggis Fasa 2 Development Sdn Bhd.

“This is in accordance with section 76 of the National Land Code where we will need to get a full payment for the land, then a land survey will be done for the land alienation and then a land title issued under Taman Manggis Fasa 2 Development,” he told a press conference.

Ng said a formal letter addressed to state BN chief Teng Chang Yeow has been issued and delivered to Penang BN headquarters, giving Penang BN 30 days to pay the rest of the amount.

“We are still very serious about selling the land to Penang BN to build public housing for the poor. This is a win-win situation as we could use the RM22.4 million we get from the sale of this land to build low-cost housing for the poor at Jalan SP Chelliah,” he said.

Ng said BN could issue a cheque made out to the state treasurer or it could do a direct bank-in.

Yesterday, the state BN Youth, represented by BN Youth chief Oh Tong Keong and several other Youth members, brought RM224,073 in cash to pay the state government as earnest money to purchase the disputed land that has been in the news in recent months.

The Taman Manggis issue was first raised by Penang BN Youth, which claimed the land had been sold to a party which planned to build a medical centre.

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 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 much below market rate.

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.

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

Penang BN immediately went about setting up Taman Manggis Fasa 2 Development Sdn Bhd to purchase the land.

In response to the recent development, Oh said Penang BN will call a meeting with the directors of the Taman Manggis Fasa 2 to discuss the next course of action.

He declined to say whether Penang BN had the money to make the full payment.

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