

Queries over prime state land lease

NATION

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GEORGE TOWN: Questions have arisen about prime state land leased to Island Hospital without an open tender.

Penang Gerakan wants to know why other hospitals were not invited to bid for the land.

“Aren’t all the private hospitals high-value medical facilities?”

“I think almost all the private hospitals in Penang have good medical facilities and there are many more hospital management corporations in the world that would have been interested.

“Why didn’t the state open the opportunity and let all hospitals pitch their best ideas?” Penang Gerakan acting Youth chief Jason Loo asked.

He said there had been ventures in the state with gross domestic product (GDP) values of RM10bil or more that went through open tender.

“This project’s investment is RM2bil and its economic value is expected to exceed RM7bil. Why was it not opened for tender?”

Loo also felt the leased value was low because it is prime land.

“It’s just a few streets away from Pulau Tikus where there are now so many famous hospitals.

“There are many pharmacies doing good business. So many Indonesian medical tourists can be seen in Pulau Tikus that some shops put up Indonesian signs to serve them.

“This is prime land for building a medical tourism hub but the state avoided public consultation and gave no chance for other hospital corporations to show what they can do with it,” Loo said.

He also wondered if other uses for the land had been considered because while medical tourism was a hot thing, low-cost housing was still insufficient.

“Young Penangites need homes and many are struggling to own a house on this island where they grew up.

“I’m not against medical tourism but compared to low-cost homes, I think we are more desperate for housing,” he said.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:

Property , Northern Region , Island , Hospital Land Questions