

From the desk of

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Yang Amat Berhormat  
Tuan Lim Guan Eng  
Pejabat YAB Ketua Menteri  
Tingkat 28, KOMTAR  
10503 Pulau Pinang

Dear Sir,

'disappointment' at foreign consultant's involvement in Penangs Public Housing Project

As a consultant architect, I read with much interest the matter above highlighted in today's Star newspaper – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012. I personally feel and know Singapore have vast experience and have produced very good quality public housing and flat designs over the years and are amongst the best in the region. Although generally local consultants should be given preference, in this particular case the Penang's government's choice in selecting consultants in selected specialized areas is fully justified and I agree with your statement – "the poor deserves a house and not a box ....", Singapore HDB are leaders in public housing if not globally, at least in Asia.

Perhaps you should highlight and remind the people of the following choices made and continually being made by them and other major Public company controlled by

- 1) The Petronas Twin Tower was designed by an Italian architect based in America – Cesar Pelli, while we have our own green high rise architect Dr. Kean Yeang (now based in London) who design buildings in many foreign country's and is recognized as one of the world' leading green – architect. Our KLIA airport the gateway to Malaysia, was also designed by a Japanese architect., another foreigner.
- 2) The current on-going controversial billion dollar one-hundred floor 'Menara Warisan' to be built at our historic Stadium Merdeka site by PNB is designed by an Australian architect. Not only the 100 storey tower is designed by a foreign firm, all other related buildings for hotels and shopping complex is to be designed by foreign consultants. Approaches by local consultants have been continuously turned down despite repeated attempts. PNB stands for Permodalan 'Nasional' Bhd and what is so "Nasional" in their spirit of turning down locals. PNB officials also hold monthly workshops in Australia and America to be "heritage" inspired.



The 100 floor tower "Menara Warisan" is to be the tallest building in Malaysia ~ a heritage landmark. The question is by who and where is our "heritage" to be reflected in this developments – by a foreigner ? Are we still being colonised by foreigners who tells us what and how our "Heritage Tower" should look like?

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



RAJA DATO' KAMARUL BAHRIN SHAH  
ARCHITECT