
Subject: Gedung Kuning and NOT Rumah Bendahara

From: Hidayah Amin (hidayah@gedungkuning.com)

To: gedungkuning@yahoo.com;

Date: Sunday, May 9, 2010 2:14 PM

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Gedung Kuning and NOT Rumah Bendahara

From: "Hidayah Amin" <hidayah@pacific.net.sg>

Date: Sat, September 3, 2005 8:16 pm

To: "Zainul Abidin RASHEED" <Zainul_Abidin_RASHEED@mfa.gov.sg>

Cc: "admin" <admin@gedungkuning.com>

"hidayah" <hidayah@gedungkuning.com>

"hoessein_salim" <hoessein_salim@malayheritage.org.sg>

"rashidah" <rashidah@gedungkuning.com>

"sales" <sales@tepaksireh.com.sg>

"wahidah" <wahidah@gedungkuning.com>

hadi@gedungkuning.com

Assalamualaikum everyone,

The estate of Haji Yusoff Bin Haji Mohamed Noor is NOT a wakaf. We have no Wakaf Administrator but we have 3 trustees - my uncles Abdullah, Idris & 'Ustaz' Zhulkeflee (whom we have already commenced legal action against).

This year, we already had our Haul at Masjid Hajah Fatimah. I will convey to the trustees about having the Haul next year at Gedung Kuning. However, we have some reservations as the last time we had our Doa Selamat at Tepak Sireh, we had to pay \$2 more per person than the already agreed price. This amounted to quite a bit especially when the number of attendees was large.

But I think we can arrange something with MHC. The exhibition sounds like a good idea. We can explore this further. Insyah Allah, when I have finished writing my book on "Gedung Kuning", we can have the official launch at Gedung Kuning. Perhaps MHC would like to sponsor the venue and launch? :) I hope to finish writing by end of this year, Insyah Allah

About the Bendahara or Temenggong Issue, perhaps MHC can consult our historians on this.

Hadi (my brother), since you studied History and Malay Studies perhaps you can also enlighten us on this matter.

As far as my research has shown:

1835: Sultan Hussain passed away and his eldest son, Tengku Ali became heir to the throne. He was known as Sultan Ali.

Date unknown: Even though Singapore never had a Bendahara, a "Rumah Bendahara" was built for Tengku Mahmud, the younger son of Sultan Ali.

Tengku Mahmud changed the name "Rumah Bendahara" to "Gedung Kuning" (the Yellow Mansion) after its yellow walls.

1897: Royal family dispute ensued and the Court of Appeal held that no one could claim the property and land of Kampung Gelam. [Straits Settlements Laws Report 1897 (Vol. 5), The case of Tengku Mahmud vs. Tengku Ali]

Thus Gedung Kuning was given its name before 1897. It ceased to be called Rumah Bendahara. Pls. refer to the following:

a.. Zarinah Binte Ali, The Istana at Kampong Gelam: From Royal Ground to National Heritage, Department of Southeast Asian Studies Programme, Thesis for the BA of Arts, 2001/2002.

b.. Pang Keng Fong, The Malay Royals of Singapore, Department of Sociology, Thesis for the BA of Social Science, 1984.

c.. Brown, C.C, 'Sejarah Melayu' or 'Malay Annals': a translation of Raffles MS 18, Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Volume 25, No. 2 & 3, 1952.

d.. 'Asal usul Gedung Kuning di Kg Glam', BH, 17 June 1980.

We're NOT agreeable to rename Gedung Kuning to Bendahara's House ("even if it's just for glamour and/or marketing purposes"). All of us grew up in Gedung Kuning. We knew our childhood home as Gedung Kuning. Everyone in Kampung Gelam, Arab St, Bussorah St, Singapore knows the house as Gedung Kuning. We must not change our roots just for glamour sake or even to honour the non-existent Bendahara. I mean, even the government will not rename Singapore to a more hipper name just to attract tourists, right?

By the way, the title deed also indicated that "in 1907, Gedung Kuning was mortgaged by Tengku Mohamed Bin Sultan Ali to R.M.P.S Annamalay Chitty" and on "30 July 1912, Haji Yusoff bin Haji Mohamed Noor (also known as Hadjee Eusope Bin Hadjee Mohamed Noor) bought Gedung Kuning from R.M.P.C Mootiah Chitty." So we should honour Haji Yusoff who 'saved' the building than the royal family who mortgaged a piece of history for monetary purposes.

Warmest regards,
Hidayah (Cik Idah) & the Admin Team
www.gedungkuning.com

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From: "Zainul Abidin RASHEED" <Zainul_Abidin_RASHEED@mfa.gov.sg>

To: <hidayah@pacific.net.sg>

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<rashidah@gedungkuning.com>; "sales" <sales@tepaksireh.com.sg>; "wahidah"

<wahidah@gedungkuning.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2005 12:11 PM

Subject: Re: Link to the Gedung Kuning website

Hi. Aslmkm. How do we pin down this issue of whether the Gedung Kuning or the land on which GK now sits once belong to the Bendahara? I rememebr someone telling me that earlier. The Temenggong's House, I was told was at Telok Belangah but was there a Bendahara or are they the same person? What abt the house where the old Parliament Hse used to be? Was that Temenggong's or Bendahara's or someone else?

There is also a request that we rename the Gedung Kuning to Bendahara's House, even if it's just for glamour and/or marketing purposes? What do you think?

Good idea re Akhbar's suggestion that you bring yr family to the Restaurant. How about getting yr Wakaf Administrator to do an annual "Doa Arwah (Haul) for yr ancestors and Doa Selamat for yr Family/Relatives" at GK. This Syaaban wld be a good time? We could even do a joint programme with MHC, with an exhibition on the Hj Yusof legacy as part of the programme. I am sure media wld be intersted in it too. In addition to Doa Arwah/Selamat, if we can sell tickets for a special High Tea, that would even be better? There might be more ideas to do join projects like that.

Pse let me know.

Best Regards
Zainul