



Good response: There was a big turnout in Petaling Street during the mayor's visit.

Discussion after CNY

DBKL to resolve key issues on MRT in each area

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KUALA Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will be having discussions with MRT Corporation and residents of Jalan Inai, Jalan Sultan, Bukit Bintang and Taman Tun Dr Ismail over the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project after Chinese New Year to resolve key issues in each area.

Mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail said they would also be discussing about retaining the heritage value for Jalan Sultan.

"We want to highlight the need to maintain the heritage buildings in the area. Property owners, however, must understand that during the construction period, they will have to relocate temporarily.

"About 90% of the people want the MRT because it will reduce traffic congestion and allow people to move from point to point with ease," he said, adding the Government was pumping a lot of money into the project that would be completed by 2016.

Fuad was speaking to reporters after distributing the Federal Territories flags and Mandarin oranges in Petaling Street on Monday.

"People want to retain the old buildings, so we want to discuss how we can resolve this matter," he said, adding there would be no land acquisition in Jalan Sultan.

Residents and property owners in the mentioned areas have been



Perfect fit: Fuad (left) trying out a pair of sunglasses at one of the stalls in Petaling Street.

opposing the land acquisition required for the MRT project.

During the event, Fuad also spoke about retaining the Chinese character in Petaling Street.

Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun said the buildings in Petaling Street should be upgraded by DBKL as it was an integral part of the city's heritage.

He said since the area was popular

among tourists, DBKL should allocate some funds to allow buildings to be restored.

Fuad said they could look into giving some subsidy but it was the responsibility of the owners as well as tenants to maintain the buildings.

"The onus is on the owners and tenants to upgrade or add value to their buildings. We can help by improving the infrastructure and

landscape the surrounding the area," he said.

In conjunction with the Chinese New Year, about 11,000 lanterns will be installed around the city including 460 in Petaling Street by City Hall.

Also present at the event was Federal Territories MCA 1Malaysia Task Force Team deputy head Frankie Gan.