

Najib invited to 'light up' hopes

Organisers of lantern event in heritage area likely to be disappointed

A GROUP of artists will be inviting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to a street festival where he is expected to light lanterns with the people and pray for the preservation of old buildings along Jalan Sultan.

Petaling Street Community Art Project deputy director Chong Keat Ann said on Wednesday the invitation would be sent by post and also to Najib's recently-launched 'Ah Jib Gor' Chinese Facebook page.

The festival will be held on Sunday between 8pm and midnight to symbolically light up the hopes of businessmen and residents in the area, whom the organisers say are heart-broken because they may be celebrating their last Chinese New Year before making way for the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project, reports MalaysiaKini.

The event will be celebrated with lanterns placed along a 200m stretch covering Jalan



JALAN SULTAN: Lanterns along a 200m stretch coming up

Sultan and the adjoining Jalan Hang Jebat, from Lok Ann Hotel just outside Petaling Street's gateway to the Gospel Hall Church.

According to a statement, the idea was inspired by the Chinese tradition of hanging lanterns laden with riddles to be solved on the 15th day of Chinese New Year.

In addition, the event is slated to feature art installations, calligraphy, music and dance performances. Thus far, 15 groups and individuals have signed up to take part in the show.

The move follows a historical tour around the Jalan Sultan and Jalan Bukit Bintang areas earlier yesterday, and an arts festival organised

by the group to protest against the MRT project on Sept 16 last year.

However, they are set to be disappointed. Contacted by The Malay Mail, Najib's press secretary, Datuk Tengku Sharifuddin Tengku Ahmad, said he would not be attending.

"PM has a programme that night," he said in a text message.