

Coming together as one

Heritage activists promote landmarks through city tour

By HARIATI AZIZAN
hari_A@thestar.com.my

THE Federal Territories Day gave a group of heritage activists the opportunity to organise a walk through several historical landmarks in the city to raise public awareness on the importance of conservation.

"Like any other city in the world, Kuala Lumpur has its distinct character, history and cultural background.

"We have chosen this day to have this city tour to promote the importance of preserving our city's cultural heritage and history," said Stanley Yong, co-chairman of the committee to preserve Jalan Sultan and Jalan Bukit Bintang.

The committee, together with the Petaling Street Community Arts Project group, organised the *Save Jalan Sultan* heritage walk from Jalan Sultan to Jalan Bukit Bintang to highlight the issue of conserving the city's historical landmarks.

Among those who took part in the walk were Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun and members of the Kuala Lumpur Malay Heritage Community Council (Muafakat).

"We hope to maintain the character of the city while the KL is developed," said Yong,

stressing that the groups were not anti-development.

"We want Malaysians and the world to understand how Kuala Lumpur was founded through the concerted efforts of all the races in the country and grew to become the developed city it is today," he said.

Yong said they were worried over the underground tunnel being dug through some historical parts of Kuala Lumpur for the planned MRT development.

"Even if they use the latest construction methods and materials, it will not guarantee the stability of the old buildings," he said, alleging his committee had not been given the opportunity to air their views on an alternative route for the MRT.

Muafakat chairman Ishak Surin said his group wanted to show their solidarity with the Jalan Sultan and Bukit Bintang community to preserve KL's heritage.

"We got Kampung Bandar Dalam in Gombak and six other Malay villages recognised as Malay heritage villages. So, we want to show support for our friends to preserve our heritage in this part of the city," he said.



For preservation: The Save Jalan Sultan heritage walk organised by the Petaling Street Community Arts Project group with the Committee of Preserving Jalan Sultan and Jalan Bukit Bintang.