

Assembly hall wants MRT route realigned

KUALA LUMPUR: The Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH) is stepping up its pressure on MRT Corp to realign the path of the Kajang-Sungai Buloh mass rapid transit (MRT) line to save Jalan Sultan, which it sees as a heritage site.

KLSCAH secretary-general Yong Yew Wei said it wants to break the deadlock between MRT

Corp and Jalan Sultan property owners and tenants by drumming up public support.

"We want the public to agree to our realignment and to force MRT Corp to sit down for negotiations.

"If it agrees to realignment, there will be no piecemeal solution," Yong told a press conference here yesterday.

He said that there are other benefits to protecting Jalan Sultan,

which is the gateway to the MRT development.

"First, they will have to reveal the MRT route in Jalan Sultan, Jalan Bukit Bintang and Jalan Inai. Second, they will also have to go back to the drawing board to see if the MRT will really help in solving all the traffic problems. They have to redo the design," he said.

Yong said a gathering of non-governmental organisations to

endorse the KLSCAH position would be held at the assembly hall at 2.30pm on Sunday.

This would be followed later at 4pm by a Chinese Research Resource Centre-organised seminar on Kuala Lumpur development and history.

Tong said a fund-raising dinner will be held on Feb 23, where the KLSCAH hopes to collect RM150,000.

"We have RM65,000 in donations so far which we will use for an awareness campaign

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to get the younger generation to know about their heritage and about preserving Jalan Sultan.

"Jalan Sultan belongs to everybody, to Kuala Lumpur and to Malaysia," he said.

Asked about a possible mutual agreement between Jalan Sultan landowners and MRT Corp, Yong said the landowners are still being kept in the dark about it as the points of agreement have not been revealed.

Yong said he assumes that the agreement would contain the compensation amounts and the evacuation period.

He said that while the KLSCAH is not against the MRT project itself, it feels that the decision-making process could be more transparent.