

# Sign or lose it

The landowners of Jalan Sultan have been issued an ultimatum – if they do not sign the MRT deal by Feb 29, their land will be acquired. >4

## Ultimatum next week

### Traders must decide before MRT land acquisition

By **JASTIN AHMAD TARMIZI**  
jastin@thestar.com.my

**T**HE Jalan Sultan traders in Petaling Street have until next week to decide on a mutual agreement with Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp) before compulsory land acquisition takes place.

The Chinatown occupants will have to relocate for a maximum of six months and their land titles will be endorsed with a statement recognising the existence of the tunnel beneath it under a mutual agreement mooted by MRT Corp.

MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid explained that although it was not the intention of MRT Corp to undertake compulsory acquisition, they were running out of time for negotiations as the project had to be completed by July 2017.

"What we are trying to do now is to strike an agreement with the stakeholders so that we can sign the agreement and tell the govern-

ment to reverse the compulsory land acquisition process.

"Now we have no choice but to let the compulsory acquisition proceed," he said to a press conference explaining the updates of the issue yesterday.

He said, however, MRT Corp would have no choice but to let the compulsory land acquisition take place by end of the month if the traders continued to reject their proposal to complete mutual agreement negotiations.

"The feedback is that only two owners do not agree with the terms and keep insisting on a realignment of the line.

"They have also not been talking to us, however, we are talking to the lawyers representing the rest of the owners.

"I'm urging them to come back to us so we can reach an agreement," he said.

"We are starting to run out of time and MRT Corp has been put in a difficult situation with tremendous pressure from the government to reach a solution quickly by the end of the



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—AZHAR ABDUL HAMID

month and get the MRT project going," he added.

Azhar stressed that MRT Corp supported the preservation of the heritage buildings in Chinatown by not acquiring and demolishing the buildings along Jalan Sultan and Jalan Petaling.