

# Only two object

## Jalan Sultan shopowners worry over MRT Corp's ultimatum

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**T**HE two shopowners in Jalan Sultan, Petaling Street, who have not agreed to the terms given by Mass Rapid Transit Corporation want a guarantee that their buildings will be safe before they decide on a mutual agreement.

The landowners were given an ultimatum by MRT Corp recently to accept the conditions given by end of the month or land acquisition would be carried out.

Lok Ann Hotel owner Judy Lam, who has yet to agree to the terms, said they wanted a written guarantee that their properties would be safe.

"Now they have given us an ultimatum. If they want to bulldoze their way through, there is nothing we can do.

"They should not single out the two owners. Instead, they have to listen to the thousands who are against the acquisition of Jalan Sultan," she said, adding it was now a community issue.

"We have written a letter for a meeting but there is still no reply," she said, adding that the two traders would contact the Prime Minister and also seek legal advice.

Preserve Jalan Sultan Committee

chairman Yong Yew Wei said MRT Corp should stop the land acquisition process and ask the Land and Mines Office to remove the land acquisition application before negotiating any deal with the owners so no parties would be under any pressure during negotiations.

"MRT Corp is now pushing the responsibility by saying the owners are delaying negotiations. They should have started negotiations with the traders earlier if they wanted to start work early. Now they are blaming the owners for slow response," he added.

MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid had said the Jalan Sultan traders had until end of this month to decide on a mutual agreement with MRT Corp before compulsory land acquisition takes place.

The Chinatown occupants would 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.

Azhar had 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



**Historic icon:**  
Lok Ann Hotel owner has yet to agree to MRT Corp's terms and conditions.

by July 2017.

He stressed that MRT Corp did not want to acquire or demolish the shoplots in Chinatown but they were requesting for the occupants to relocate for a maximum of six months and assured that the property owners that fair compensation

would be paid during the period.

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.