



MEDIA STATEMENT

**MRT Corp wants to complete mutual agreement negotiations with Jalan Sultan
Land Owners by the end of the month**

Compulsory land acquisition to take place if mutual agreement is not reached

CEO emphasizes NO demolition of buildings

Kuala Lumpur, 24 February 2012: Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) would like to reiterate that it wants to pursue a mutual agreement with the owners of the shoplots along Jalan Sultan and Jalan Petaling which will be located above the MRT tunnel.

MRT has stated many times before that it does not want to acquire nor demolish the shoplots in Chinatown. The MRT tunnel can be constructed beneath these shoplots without any adverse impact on them. All MRT Corp is requesting in this mutual agreement is for the occupants of the shoplots to relocate for a maximum of six months and for their land titles to be endorsed with a statement recognizing the existence of the tunnel beneath.

Speaking at a press conference here today to update the progress of the MRT project, CEO of MRT Corp, Dato' Azhar Abdul Hamid said, "We listened to the affected parties and worked hard to get the Government to make the mutual agreement option available to the Jalan Sultan landowners. The mutual agreement provides effective and innovative solutions that promote a win-win situation for everyone."

He said MRT Corp has made a lot of progress with the owners of the shoplots and to date, lawyers representing 20 out of 23 lots in the area are in intense negotiations with MRT Corp's lawyers.

"However, we are starting to run out of time and MRT Corp has been put in a very difficult situation with tremendous pressure from the Government to reach a



solution on this matter quickly by the end of this month and smoothly to get the MRT project going,” said Dato’ Azhar.

The mutual agreement covers issues such as the withdrawal of the land acquisition application upon signing, and guarantee of no demolition, while the land owner or the tenant has to relocate for the six months of tunneling works and the land titles having to be endorsed with a statement to recognise the tunnel beneath the property. The owners will also be adequately compensated.

“I am grateful for the majority of landowners who have put their faith in us to solve this matter amicably. We are not land grabbers and have nothing to gain from land acquisition. The landowners have nothing to lose and everything to gain from the mutual agreement. We are confident that the MRT will transform Chinatown into a more vibrant and exciting area, attracting more local and international tourists to this part of Kuala Lumpur,” added Dato’ Azhar.

Dato’ Azhar reiterated that MRT Corp fully supports the preservation of the heritage buildings in Chinatown by not acquiring and demolishing any buildings along Jalan Sultan and Jalan Petaling to construct the Sungai Buloh-Kajang line. He also said MRT Corp fully supports the gazetting of Chinatown as a heritage area.

He said the shop occupants need to vacate their shoplots for a maximum period of six months for the tunneling works, purely in the interest of health and safety to enable the efforts to strengthen and support the buildings to prevent any impact from the tunneling works. MRT Corp has reassured the property owners that fair compensation will be paid for loss of income during that period and they can return to their shophouses and resume business as usual in a much improved environment once construction ends. This is achievable provided that the affected landowners sign the mutual agreement.

In December last year, MRT Corp signed the Points of Agreement (POA) with the owners of 21 lots of land in the Jalan Inai area which are affected by the MRT project. The POA will form a basis for the mutual agreement. MRT Corp is also in



discussion with the Jalan Bukit Bintang property owners in its efforts to achieve a common goal towards solving the land issue in the area.

The MRT project is a key enabler in achieving the nation's Greater KL goal and propelling Kuala Lumpur into the top 20 most livable and economically vibrant cities in the world by 2020.

- End -

For further media enquiries, please contact:

Edelman Malaysia

Raymond Siva

Mobile: 016 223 7226

Email: Raymond.siva@edelman.com