

# Hope floats for Jalan Sultan

**PETALING JAYA:** The Government is prepared to declare the shops in Jalan Sultan in Kuala Lumpur as heritage buildings and do everything possible to preserve them, says Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the owners of the shopplots affected by the MY Rapid Transit (MRT) system had met him and were not against the project but wanted an assurance that their property would be protected.

"It is important to preserve history

## Govt willing to preserve shops as heritage buildings

but it should not impede progress," he said in an interview with 988 FM radio.

The Prime Minister said the country must have efficient public transport, especially in the capital, to develop.

"The only way forward is to have the MRT system," he added.

On the economy, Najib said the prospects for Malaysia were quite

encouraging despite the global downturn.

"We are reasonably confident that if nothing untoward happens, we can achieve a growth rate of 4.5% to 5% this year," he said.

Asked about the general election, Najib said: "We will have to look to the people's support for us and our ability to overcome outstanding issues.

"Hopefully, we will have a strong feel good factor. That is when we will press the button (and call for polls)."

He also said there were times when he was blamed for dropping an elected representative.

"But if that person reflects deeper, (he or she will realise) it is because of his or her lack of performance and loss of confidence of the constitu-

ents (that has led to the decision). I should listen to the people as it is only right," he said.

On the My First Home Scheme, Najib dismissed reports that there were no approvals from banks and said Bank Negara had recorded a 36.6% success rate under the scheme.

"There are also hundreds of applications under consideration by commercial banks. If we can improve on any aspect, we will," he added.