

MRT 'best way to solve traffic woes'

HISTORICAL VALUE:

Chinese group wants heritage sites to be preserved too

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project is necessary for the convenience of the people, but the historical value of Jalan Sultan which forms part of the project route must be protected, said the chief executive officer of the Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH) Tang Ah Chai.

He said such development was necessary for a busy city and the construction of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang MRT project was the best move in overcoming the traffic congestion.

"Urbanisation in large cities such as Kuala Lumpur certainly cannot be avoided but this should not be at the expense of national heritage," he said yesterday.

Tang hoped that the MRT project could change its route that had to pass through Jalan Sultan and sug-

gested that the route be changed to Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock heading to Plaza Rakyat.

"This is among the suggestions that we have made in our memorandum in November as an alternative route for the MRT project so that it would not affect the buildings along Jalan Sultan.

"The use of Jalan Sultan for the MRT project should have obtained the consent of the local residents, and the heritage buildings along Jalan Sultan should be protected," he said.

In November last year, the KLSCAH had urged the government to change the route of the MRT project which had been planned to pass through Jalan Sultan Ismail and Jalan Bukit Bintang by handing over a memorandum to the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz.

KLSCAH secretary-general, Yong Yew Wei said the construction of the MRT project at the location would affect business in the area as well as the heritage buildings.

The construction of the MRT project will begin in the second quarter of next year while work on the tunnel from Sungai Buloh to Kajang will begin in 2014. **Bernama**