

MRT needed but preserve Jalan Sultan's historical value

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The construction of the MRT project will affect heritage buildings in Jalan Sultan.

KUALA LUMPUR: The mass rail 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 Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH) CEO Tang Ah Chai.

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

“Urbanisation in large cities such as Kuala Lumpur cannot be avoided, but this should not be at the expense of national heritage,” he told *Bernama*.

Tang suggests the MRT project change its route that passes through Jalan Sultan to Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock heading to Plaza Rakyat.

“This is among the suggestions we 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 agreement of the local residents, and the heritage buildings along Jalan Sultan should be protected,” he said.

In November last year, the KLSCAH had, via a memorandum to the Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department, Datuk Seri Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz, 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.

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 there.

German tourist, Catriena Varia, 29, said although she did not know

about the MRT project, she hopes its construction would not affect the historical buildings in Jalan Sultan.

A local youth, Raymond Ng, 20, supports the government’s proposal to build the MRT in the city but hopes that the historical sites would be maintained.

“Malaysians should appreciate the historical heritage buildings as they are becoming extinct and being destroyed by development.

“The MRT route can be changed, but if the national heritage is continuously destroyed to bring development, then the new generation like us would not be able to appreciate the beauty of these buildings and probably in future, the young generation only study history from text books,” said Ng, who is from Kampung Baru Jinjang, Kuala Lumpur.

The construction of the MRT project will begin in stages in the second quarter of next year while work on the tunnel stretching 51km from Sungai Buloh to Kajang will begin in the second quarter of 2014.

— *Bernama*