

A matter of heritage

> 'Reroute MRT line to preserve Jalan Sultan's historical value'

KUALA LUMPUR: The Mass Rail Transit (MRT) project is necessary for the convenience of the public, but the historical value of Jalan Sultan, which forms part of the project route, must be protected.

Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH) chief executive officer Tang Ah Chai, while acknowledging that the project was necessary in a fast-

developing city like Kuala Lumpur, told Bernama that it must not be at the expense of national heritage.

Tang hoped that the MRT line could be rerouted from Jalan Sultan to Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock heading towards Plaza Rakyat.

"An alternative route for the project was among the suggestions that we made in our memorandum (to the government) in November, so that it would not affect the buildings in Jalan Sultan," said Tang.

He said MRT Corp should have consulted the locals in drawing up the project plan.

In November last year, the KLSCAH had

urged the government to change the route of the MRT project, which would pass through Jalan Sultan and Jalan Bukit Bintang.

KLSCAH secretary-general Yong Yew Wei said the project would not only threaten the heritage buildings but also affect business in the area. A local youth, Raymond Ng, 20, supported the government's proposal to develop the MRT system in the city but hoped that the heritage site would be preserved.

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 would begin in the second quarter of 2014.