

MRT to minimise congestion

SAFETY FIRST: Construction works must be well planned

TO avoid traffic congestion during the construction of the mass rapid transit, Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) has been told to follow the traffic impact assessment that was approved earlier.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin said well-organised construction works were needed to minimise difficulties to road users during the construction period.

"MRT Corp needs to follow the approved traffic assessment which was done earlier to ensure the safety of road users. This is also to minimise the difficulties to road users throughout the construction period," he said yesterday.

Awang Adek was replying to a question by Datuk Ismail Kasim (BN-Arau) on the adjustments made to avoid adding congestion during MRT's construction process.

"The government is aware that this is an important infrastructure project which will involve physical works along high-density traffic areas in Klang Valley.

"Therefore, the government is

monitoring the project closely so that it can be carried out according to plan and, most importantly, to ensure the constructions will not burden road users."

On the Jalan Sultan residents' issue, he said out of the 23 affected shop owners, 21 had agreed to the offers made to them.

"The remaining two owners are still considering. Owners do not have to worry about the safety of their shops.

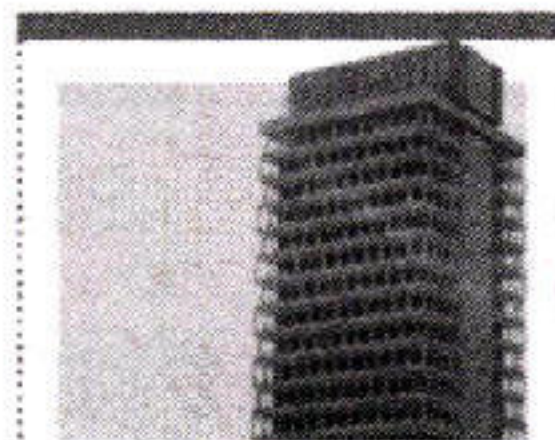
"Since MRT Corp has agreed to pay for any damage caused during the six months of constructions, I'm sure they will be more careful when carrying out the works to avoid having to fork out ex-

tra money."

He said the government on the other hand, has also promised to preserve the unique historical buildings in Chinatown.

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

The 51km MRT line will start from Sungai Buloh and cut through Kuala Lumpur city centre to Kajang.



**AT THE
DEWAN
RAKYAT
YESTERDAY**