

Two shop owners yet to accept MRT Corp offer

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KUALA LUMPUR: Only two out of 23 shop-owners along Jalan Sultan have yet to sign a mutual agreement with Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp) to vacate their premises for six months with full compensation, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Seri Awang Adek Hussain said this is to allow underground tunnelling work to be conducted below the premises, as part of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang MRT route.

"All concerns raised (by shop-owners) have been negotiated to reach the best compromise. The government has agreed to pay full compensation to all the affected shop-owners," he said in response to a supplementary question from Fong Kui Lun (DAP-Bukit Bintang) on the project's potential effect on heritage buildings in the area.

"The owners are getting paid to go on 'leave' for six months. It will be as if their business is going on as usual," he said.

He said if there is any damage to the buildings due to tunnelling works, the government would also compensate the owners accordingly.

Awang Adek said none of the buildings would be demolished and the government is committed to preserving their heritage status.