

# Stakeholders want more info

## Jalan Sultan committee insists on a public hearing for the project

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**J**ALAN Sultan stakeholders said they will not vacate their premises in Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown to make way for the My Rapid Transit (MRT) project unless the Government makes good on its promise to disclose the soil investigation and social impact assessment reports and carry out a public hearing.

Committee to Preserve Jalan Sultan and Jalan Bukit Bintang (PJSJBB) chairman Stanley Yong said there had been contradictory reports on the soil quality in the area.

He added that without the neces-

sary documents, the committee would have to conclude that no tests were conducted and the alignment along Jalan Sultan was not justifiable.

"MRT Corp concluded that the soil in Jalan Sultan is of the Kenny Hill formation and that the buildings will be safe during tunnelling.

"However, seven months ago in a meeting organised by Prasarana with the owners, experts had said that Kuala Lumpur stood on 'highly unpredictable karstic limestone soil'."

Yong also said that despite the assurances from the Prime Minister that there would be no land acquisition in both Jalan Sultan and Jalan Bukit Bintang, the process of land

acquisition has not stopped.

"The Putrajaya Land Office even held a briefing with Jalan Sultan owners on March 19 to discuss the Mutual Agreement and endorsement titles.

"Unless the acquisition procedure is officially called off, it is unfair to the property owners to be involved in any form of negotiations of terms and conditions with MRT Corp," he said.

He also said PJSJBB would be writing to Kuala Lumpur Mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail requesting a public hearing on the project.

"We need reasonable time to understand and give feedback on the project," he added.

Meanwhile, several of the Jalan

Sultan business owners were annoyed by Deputy Finance Minister Awang Adek Hussin's statement in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday that Jalan Sultan owners who had agreed to the government compensation package will get a "paid holiday" during the construction of the MRT project below their properties.

The owners and tenants said the Government and MRT Corp did not seem to understand their plight and seemed to be missing the point.

Tan Siak Wing, the owner of the 73-year-old Lok Ann Hotel, said the authorities were missing the point on many issues pertaining to the area and they needed to meet the people.

Chin Yen Foo, 75, who works in one of the restaurants in Jalan Sultan, said he was worried about his livelihood during the closure period.

"They are talking about the 20 business owners. What about the 3,000 workers and tenants in the surrounding area?" Yong asked.

On the proposed realignment to Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock and the MRT Corp claim that it required the demolition of 29 buildings, Yong said, "Jalan Sultan is half the width of Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock; if tearing down buildings of that magnitude is necessary on a much wider road, it would only be worse in the case of Jalan Sultan," he said.