



# Bukit Bintang Central: Retail refuge of the future

**FUTURISTIC:** NST RED talks to the Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) on the future Bukit Bintang Central (MRT) station which is designed to house interconnecting shopping malls underground

**RED:** There would be a shopping mall and office spaces on top of this MRT.

**What is the rationale for this since there are already several shopping malls in the area? Will the underground station be interconnected with the other shopping malls e.g. Pavilion, Lot 10, and Starhill? Will there be underground shopping malls such as those in South Korea and Toronto, for example.**

**MRT:** The mutual agreement which MRT Corp is negotiating with the landowners will result in the original landowners retaining ownership of the land above Bukit Bintang Central station. It will be up to the landowners to decide what they want to do with their land. MRT Corp will only gain ownership of the underground station.

The underground station will be connected with underground walkways to adjacent shopping centres in the area, allowing easy access for passengers to commercial areas. There will probably be some commercial activity along the walkways. With proper construction and interfacing with the respective shopping centres, the linkage with existing basements of these shopping centres will effectively create an atmosphere of an underground mall.

**RED:** How will Bukit Bintang Central impact the whole ambience of Bukit Bintang?

**MRT:** The Bukit Bintang Central station

will enhance economic activity of Bukit Bintang by improving accessibility of the area, and better connectivity with commercial properties in the area. Business will flourish in the area.

**RED:** Will interconnecting shopping malls be the trend of the future?

**MRT:** Connectivity with shopping centres is a fundamental principle of the MRT which will boost usage of the MRT as well as enhance accessibility of shopping malls, making it more convenient for passengers to move around.

**RED:** What was the reason for Bukit Bintang Central MRT to be switched to just one station instead of two stations?

**What are the benefits of doing that?**

**MRT:** The decision to combine two stations (Bukit Bintang East and Bukit Bintang West stations) into one station, Bukit Bintang Central station, is to better serve the heart of the Bukit Bintang shopping district and will make the area more vibrant. More importantly, the Bukit Bintang Central station will allow good integration with the Bukit Bintang monorail station. The proximity will allow paid-to-paid integration i.e. there is no need to exit the system and no need to buy new tickets to switch from the monorail to the MRT and vice-versa.