

# Last-ditch bid to save Jalan Sultan buildings

ABOUT 1,000 people surrounded Klang Bus Stand and Plaza Warisan yesterday in a last-ditch attempt to save the buildings from being demolished.

The two buildings are located on the westernmost end of Jalan Sultan where numerous historic buildings are scheduled for demolition to make way for the MRT project.

Demolition works on the bus station, one of the city's famous landmarks, started last Thursday,

and on Plaza Warisan, which was built in 1918, considered a gateway to Jalan Sultan.

"We surround the buildings today to preserve it. We want the government to listen to us and stop the demolition," said Save Jalan Sultan Committee co-chairman Stanley Yeong.

The rally, which started at noon, was also attended by Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun, Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai, Segambut

MP Lim Lip Eng and Pandamaran assemblyman Ronnie Liu.

Displaying banners that read, among others, *Rasa Sayang Jln Sultan* and *Save Jalan Sultan*, the crowd held up black balloons and Chinese *ling fu* (talismans) that signify granting protection to the buildings.

"Save Jalan Sultan, listen to the people," chanted the protestors in a carnival-like atmosphere.

Moments later, mem-

bers of Occupy Dataran movement led by activist Fahmi Reza, arrived at the scene equipped with percussion instruments, to the rousing welcome of the protesters.

A pocket of the crowd began to move their bodies to the beats, and soon the whole group broke into renditions of *Rasa Sayang* and *Negaraku* together.

Actress and activist Mislina Mustaffar, who joined the protest, said

the town planners must be changed to prevent the reoccurrence of the Jalan Sultan incident.

"I believe we don't need the MRT at all. Even if we do, it should not be built at the expense of heritage buildings," she said.

Ishak Surin, member of the Gombak Muafakat group against development in his village, said he was in full solidarity with the Save Jalan Sultan members.

"This is a people's

struggle," he said.

Fung, in his speech earlier, urged the government to respect the desire of the people and halt the demolition of the 90-year-old heritage buildings.

He also reiterated that the MRT Corp has failed to conduct public hearings on the proposed Jalan Sultan MRT.

He said this denied the people the right to make their objections known — Malaysiakini