

# 16 land owners say okay to MRT

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Sixteen out of 24 owners of properties in Jalan Sultan have signed the Points of Agreement (POA) with the Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp).

Pleased with the development, MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said the signing marked a significant point in the efforts of MRT Corp towards concluding a Mutual Agreement (MA) with the property owners on Jalan Sultan, who were faced with mandatory acquisition of their properties before this.

Under the agreement mooted by MRT Corp, the occupants will have to relocate for a maximum of six months and their land titles would be endorsed with a statement recognising the existence of the tunnel beneath it.

"From the first day of MRT Corp I have taken the position of getting the owners' mutual agreement, instead of mandatory acquisition. To that end, we engaged the property owners through a series of activities to explain to them exactly what we were doing," Azhar said.

Jalan Sultan will be the location of the Pasar Seni Station, one of the seven underground stations along the 51km route of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line. Concerns were raised over the acquisition of the properties and the effect on the character of the area.

Apart from the 16, two property owners had agreed for their properties to be acquired. The owners of another four property lots were currently in advanced stages of discussions with MRT Corp.

On the Sunday protest in Jalan Sultan, Azhar said he was surprised that some parties still felt a need to take to the streets despite MRT having engaged the owners or their representatives directly for some time now.