

No locus standi to protest against MRT project

I VISITED Petaling Street last Sunday and was amazed to find more than 1,000 people gathering there to protest against the demolition of the Klang Bus Stand, UO Superstore and Plaza Warisan for the construction of the MRT project.

From what I witnessed during the protest, one of the main arguments was that they considered the three buildings as heritage buildings. But how is this true?

I do not see any point of categorising these buildings as heritage. They are not even well maintained. In fact, the cleanliness level is horribly poor. I remember, a few years

back while I was at the Klang Bus Stand, all I could see were exhaust gas-stained walls and litter everywhere.

If these buildings are heritage buildings, the authorities, or at least the people using them, should take good care of them. It's strange that these dilapidated relics should suddenly be viewed as "heritage" buildings when it suits the interest of certain people.

I do not understand the basis for the protest when the Government is basically demolishing its own buildings. The act is well within the boundaries of the law.

Many landowners in the area had

revitalised or reconstructed their buildings in some ways throughout the years and no protests were held. Even the three buildings were renovated before.

Can we stop this madness and get on with the project? Let's face it, the MRT is needed.

Everywhere I travelled to, I find that a public transport system cannot be standalone. It must be an entire "eco-system" of buses, trains, subways, trams, etc that is fully linked and servicing virtually every area of a major city.

It has to be well-built and well-maintained, and be well thought out so that upgrading works are not

needed every few years.

Yes, there will be pain during the construction. But look at how users and businesses around the public transport hubs can benefit.

In Hong Kong, major MRT stations have shopping malls built next to them or above them. Huge residential developments surround most (if not all) MRT stations.

Why? It's because commuting to work or school is easier. Less time is wasted in a traffic jam, less money is spent on fuel or taxi fares, and everyone is happier.

**JETSET,
Ipoh.**