

# MRT project won't affect heritage buildings

WE refer to the Putik Lada column "Our heritage in danger of being extinct" by Alex Anton Netto which appeared on page 36 of your newspaper on Friday.

The above mentioned column contains inaccurate facts.

We would like to call your attention to paragraph nine of the said column whereby the columnist had inaccurately stated that "scores of heritage pre-war buildings were slated to be torn down in order to make way for a multi-million dollar train project".

Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd has repeatedly stated that

the MRT project, referred to as the train project by the columnist, will not require the pre-war shophouses of Jalan Sultan and Jalan Petaling to be demolished or acquired.

MRT Corporation has also repeatedly stated that the alignment here will be 26m underground and demolition of the shophouses will be not be necessary for the construction of the MRT tunnel.

Heritage in Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown is not being threatened by the MRT project.

In fact, MRT Corporation has made public its willingness to help the landowners get the shophouses

in the area declared a heritage area.

It must be mentioned that of the 24 properties affected by the project in this area, only three landowners have yet to sign the Points of Agreement (POA) with MRT Corporation.

This POA will pave the way for a Mutual Agreement which provides the legal basis for the MRT to co-exist under privately-owned land.

We are very certain that you understand the sensitivity surrounding the construction of the MRT in this particular area.

In implementing this national

project, MRT Corporation has tried very hard to win the trust of the owners of the shophouses in this area.

Because of the constant distortion of facts – including the constant harping on the false threat of demolition by quarters opposing the MRT project – any misrepresentation of facts on this issue will bring about dire consequences.

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