

# BB Plaza tenants submit memo

by **SITI RADZIAH HAMZAH**

UDA Holdings Bhd received a memorandum signed by 48 tenants in Bukit Bintang Plaza (BB Plaza) yesterday on the issues involving the construction of MyRapid Transit (MRT) station on the 33-year old complex site.

In a statement yesterday, UDA Holdings said the memorandum was submitted by BB Plaza complex spokesman Saad Hassan to UDA Mall Sdn Bhd chief operating officer Salamah Ismail.

"UDA Holdings would like to stress that this issue involves the common interests among the company, our staff of about 400 people who worked at BB Plaza Complex, tenants, stakeholders and shareholders," it said.

It added UDA Holdings has yet to receive any formal instruction from the Finance Ministry on the status of BB Plaza as to whether it will be preserved, demolished or taken over by another party.

However, UDA Holdings has issued notice of termination earlier this month to its three tenants — Starbucks Coffee, Gloria Jean

coffee franchise and Hot & Roll eatery — located at the frontage of BB Plaza.

The issuance of notice of termination was based on the instruction by MRT Corp for the purpose of the construction of a diversion road at Jalan Bukit Bintang.

Some 60% of occupants at BB Plaza comprises Malay businesses, while Chinese entrepreneurs form the majority at the adjacent Sungei Wang Plaza.

"Other tenants will continue to operate as usual until further notice and UDA Holdings will ensure the fate of the tenants is safeguarded," it noted. In a press conference earlier this month, UDA Holdings chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said talks are still ongoing as to whether BB Plaza would be sold to MRT Corp or be redeveloped.

A day later, MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said the government had no plans to acquire BB Plaza.

MRT Corp has confirmed that it is in negotiations with the government to build an underground station integrated with BB Plaza.