

No official order on BB Plaza's status

KUALA LUMPUR: The management of the BB Plaza in Jalan Bukit Bintang has not officially received any order from the Finance Ministry on the status of the 33-year-old building, informing whether it will be up for demolition or retained.

A statement from UDA Holdings Bhd said the company was unaware that the building might be taken up by any party at the moment.

It added that the issue does not only affect the traders but also 400 UDA employees who work at its headquarters in BB Plaza.

UDA also clarified that three of its tenants, namely Gloria Jean's, Starbucks, and Hot & Roll, had their lease contracts terminated early this month following the instruction from MRT Corp Bhd to facilitate work on a road diversion in Jalan Bukit Bintang.

"While the remaining tenants at the complex can still resume their operation until further notice, the management will try to ensure that the tenants' welfare is taken care of," the statement said.

"UDA will be updating information about the status of BB Plaza from time to time."

Recently a memorandum from the protem committee representing the BB Plaza traders was handed over to UDA Mall Sdn Bhd chief operating officer Salamah Ismail.

The memorandum sought explanation from the complex management on the fate of over 150 tenants at the mall.

It was previously reported that UDA may ask for RM474 million from MRT Corp Bhd for BB Plaza should it acquire property for the construction of the underground MRT station.

UDA chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed had said that the prime property could cost around RM374 million, with an additional RM100 million for the compensation of BB Plaza retailers who had to leave before their lease expired.

At least 60 per cent of the 150-odd retailers at BB Plaza, which is owned by UDA and built in the 1970s, are Bumiputera.

MRT Corp, however, said it had no plans to buy BB Plaza.

Instead, MRT Corp said, it would work with the government to build an underground station integrated with BB Plaza.