

BB Plaza to go

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In stages

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- By ONG SOON HIN / The Star

Tenants upset with decision

Traders feel UDA has not done enough to save BB Plaza

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THE iconic 38-year-old Bukit Bintang Plaza in the heart of Kuala Lumpur will be demolished to make way for the Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project, mall owner UDA Holdings said yesterday.

UDA Holdings senior vice-president Syed Ahmad Nazri Syed Kamaruzaman said several tenants in the front part of the shopping centre had been told to vacate by the end of this month to make way for construction work while the rest have until the end of this year to move out.

"We only received a letter from MRT asking us to vacate the tenants in the front part of the mall," he told reporters after a meeting with the tenants.

It was reported earlier that BBP's tenants could stay put despite plans to integrate the rail line's largest station with the mall.

MRT Corporation chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid had also reportedly said earlier that the government had no plans to acquire BB Plaza which is in the Golden Triangle.

UDA Holdings Bhd received a memorandum from 48 tenants recently, demanding the property developer to furnish more information on the status of the mall.

"Initially they (MRT Co) told us that they just wanted the front portion and the station would be underground but later on they told us they had to bring the building down," said UDA Holdings group managing director Ahmad Abu Bakar.

"That was the confusion. In all the meetings, it was explained to us that the tenants would have to vacate by the end of the year because the plaza would be demolished," he said.

The 167 tenants, however,

were not satisfied at UDA's efforts to stop the building from being demolished.

A representative of the tenants, Hassan Saad, said UDA were not putting up a fight to stop the mall from being demolished for the project.

"We feel that UDA has not done enough to stop this," he said.

Hassan said the traders also wanted work to be delayed, so

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- AHMAD ABU BAKAR

they could resume discussion over the future of the mall after Hari Raya, as it would affect their revenue.

"The Raya season is when we make our most profit. We have already stocked supplies for the festival. If there is construction work done in front of the mall it will definitely affect our business," he said.

Responding to the traders' requests, Syed said the first thing on his agenda was to delay the construction work.

He also added that UDA was in discussion with MRT Corp on the compensation for tenants who needed to vacate the mall.

"They have the rights to do that. We have brought this to MRT and we are still in discussion," he said.



Going soon: The iconic 38-year-old Bukit Bintang Plaza located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur will be demolished to make way for the Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit project.



Airing their grouses: Hassan speaking to reporters after a meeting with UDA Holdings.