



Members of the public taking part in a signature campaign to protest against the demolition of BB Plaza. Pic by Sugumaran Suppiah

Traders: Don't tear down mall

BB PLAZA: Business owners say they will lose out if demolition goes ahead

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A GROUP of traders from BB Plaza in Kuala Lumpur handed a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office here yesterday to protest against the decision to demolish the shopping centre.

About 100 traders gathered in front of the office holding placards urging the government to stop the scheduled demolition.

The 33-year-old building, a well-known landmark in Bukit Bintang, is set to make way for a My Rapid Transit (MRT) station.

It was reported that UDA Holdings Bhd had told the traders to vacate the building by the end of the year.

However, the building's management said the decision was only given verbally at a meeting with Finance Ministry officers.

Small- and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurs Association of Malaysia (Ikhlas) president Mohd Ridzuan Abdullah said the shopping centre should not be demolished.

"BB Plaza should stay open for business as 60 per cent of the traders are Bumiputeras and the government needs to consider their views," he said after handing the memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's special officer Datuk Ghazali Ibrahim.

Ridzuan said traders stood to lose about 80 per cent of their monthly income if the demolition went ahead.

President of a pro tem committee representing the BB Plaza traders, Hassan Saad, said news of the demolition had sparked frustration and disappointment.

"We hope the government will intervene and stop UDA Holdings Bhd from demolishing the shopping centre.

"We are disappointed with the decision because most of us have been running our business there for many years, some from the time the mall opened."