

MRT line too close, say residents

REALIGN ROUTE: House owners want MRT project located further away from their Jalan Pinggir Zaaba homes

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HOUSE owners living along Jalan Pinggir Zaaba in Taman Tun Dr Ismail here are urging Mass Rapid Transport Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) to realign the MRT line on a reserve land on the opposite side of the road.

Segambut Barisan Nasional coordinating chairman Jayanthi Devi Balaguru said the committee is asking for the realignment to be moved to the road along Damansara Utama, or any other spot further away from their homes.

Pro-tem committee members of

Pinggir Zaaba House Owners' Association, together with Segambut Barisan Nasional, recently held a press conference to voice their dissatisfaction over the location of the MRT station.

The committee had objected to MRT Corp over plans to build the MRT line less than 15 metres from their properties.

The objections centred on concern of losing their privacy and health risks if the project is too close to their homes.

Pro-tem committee spokesman Mokhtar Abdul Karim said MRT Corp had rejected their request for the line to go underground.

He also said MRT Corp is only con-

cerned about the 25 houses that would be affected by the MRT project.

"The residents are disappointed with the statement by MRT Corp that it would not accede or consider the requests of the remaining Pinggir Zaaba residents who are not in the 25 houses buyout deal by MRT," said Mokhtar.

"Our first request is for the MRT line here to go underground," he added.

Pro-tem committee chairman Teoh Chye Tee said if MRT Corp failed to do so, it would need to give adequate compensation to each of the 44 house owners along Pinggir Zaaba who are not in the house buyout

plan.

MRT Corp has classified 25 houses along the street as the most affected and therefore "unlivable" and the rest of the 44 double-storey houses along the road as "livable".

"MRT Corp needs to compensate all 69 house owners according to loss of property value and the costs of temporarily relocating the 44 house owners during the construction period of the MRT, not to mention bearing the expenses for work to mitigate the noise and dust affecting the houses," said Teoh.

The MRT project construction is set to start in the fourth quarter of this year and is expected to be completed within three years.

"MRT Corp needs to **compensate** all 69 house owners according to loss of property value and the costs of temporarily relocating the 44 house owners."

Teoh Chye Tee,
Pro-tem committee chairman of Pinggir Zaaba House Owners' Association



Pinggir Zaaba house owners protesting against plans to build the MRT line less than 15 metres from their properties. Pic by Supian Ahmad