

Apathetic reaction

Government agencies fail to send reps for Jalan Sultan MRT meeting

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SEVERAL government agencies did not turn up for a meeting on the Jalan Sultan MRT set up by the Committee to Preserve Jalan Sultan and Jalan Bukit Bintang (PJSJBB) recently.

The PJSJBB had invited the Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp), the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD), Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), Tourism Ministry, the Prime Minister's Department and the Information, Communications and Culture Ministry to the meeting that was held at the Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall.

However, none of the agencies had any representatives present at the meeting, forcing the committee and stakeholders to hold the consultation without their presence.

PJSJBB chairman Stanley Yong said the agencies had called after receiving their invitations for the meeting.

"None of them replied formally but most of

them had called to confirm the date and time. The calls indicate that they had received the invitations," he said, adding an officer from SPAD was present earlier but left before the meeting started.

"This is akin to adding salt to the wound. It has been 11 months of despair and this shows that the relevant authorities are not proactive and sincere in trying to solve this matter.

"They are deliberately ignoring a democratic process that ought to be taken before a project starts," he told reporters after the consultation.

Yong added that the committee would send a memorandum to the agencies that failed to turn up.

"We will come up with written statements and requests. All this will be compiled and sent to the respective departments," he said, adding that the compiled request would be sent in a few days.

Yong added that despite the futile attempt at having the relevant agencies at this meeting, it would not prevent the committee from organising similar meetings in the future.

"We have a feeling that this is the first of many more sessions to come. We expect to have a second consultation meeting pertaining to Jalan Sultan MRT," he said.

Meanwhile, Confucius Private School board committee deputy chairman Loke Ching Chong asked the relevant government agencies to release the three-part soil test report as instructed by the prime minister in April.

Loke, who is an engineer by profession, said that only the boring log report, that was missing the other two parts including the lab test results, was given to the stakeholders.

"For all major projects, these three parts form the soil investigation report. Until now, only the boring log was made available to us," he said.

Also present at the consultation session were Jalan Sultan and Jalan Petaling clan associations members, Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun, Yan Keng Benevolent Dramatic Association secretary-general Ng Siak Wing and Lok Ann Hotel representative Judy Tan.