

# Seeking govt help for Jln Sultan

**MEMO TO GOVT:** Owners of premises fear tunneling works will affect heritage shophouses despite guarantee

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**T**HE Preservation of Jalan Sultan Committee, an action group initiated to defend the Jalan Sultan pre-colonial buildings with heritage value from being demolished for the MRT project, will send a memorandum to the government requesting the rail line to be moved elsewhere.

The group's co-chairman, Stanley Yong, said all efforts have been made and exhausted since the past year to make sure that the heritage buildings along Jalan Sultan are preserved. These, he said, included a few pre-Merdeka era buildings.

Yong said those who had signed the Point of Agreement with MRT Corp are beginning to query their buildings' safety as there was a clause in the agreement which required the building to be vacated for

six months during construction work.

"Some fear there is no guarantee that the old building will stay intact when the developer starts the tunneling works underneath. If there is no risk to the building, why are the building occupants asked to vacate and lose their business for six months?" asked Yong.

The issues covered in the memorandum include realigning the underground track line to Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock as it is wider than Jalan Sultan, and to have the abandoned Plaza Rakyat bus terminal revived as the MRT station instead of building a new one at Jalan Sultan.

It also demanded that a thorough Social Impact Assessment be carried out as the previous three months' public survey did not include the stakeholders' viewpoint.

Yong was speaking to the Press after holding a public dialogue which was supposed to be attended

by a panel represented by several ministries and the MRT Corp, but the panelists did not turn up despite the invitation sent out two weeks earlier.

Bukit Bintang state assemblyman Fong Kui Lun, who attended the dialogue, was disappointed with the cold-shoulder treatment received from the government agencies and MRT Corp over this issue.

The public dialogue held recently at the Selangor and Federal Territories Chinese Assembly Hall was participated by those concerned over the feasibility of the project in Jalan Sultan. They also believe the development will affect the three surrounding post-Merdeka buildings, namely the National Stadium, Merdeka Stadium and Chin Woo Sports Complex.

"This is our heritage. Why should such heritage be destroyed for the sake of profits?" asked one of the participants at the dialogue.



**Stanley Yong** addressing participants who turned up for the **public dialogue**.