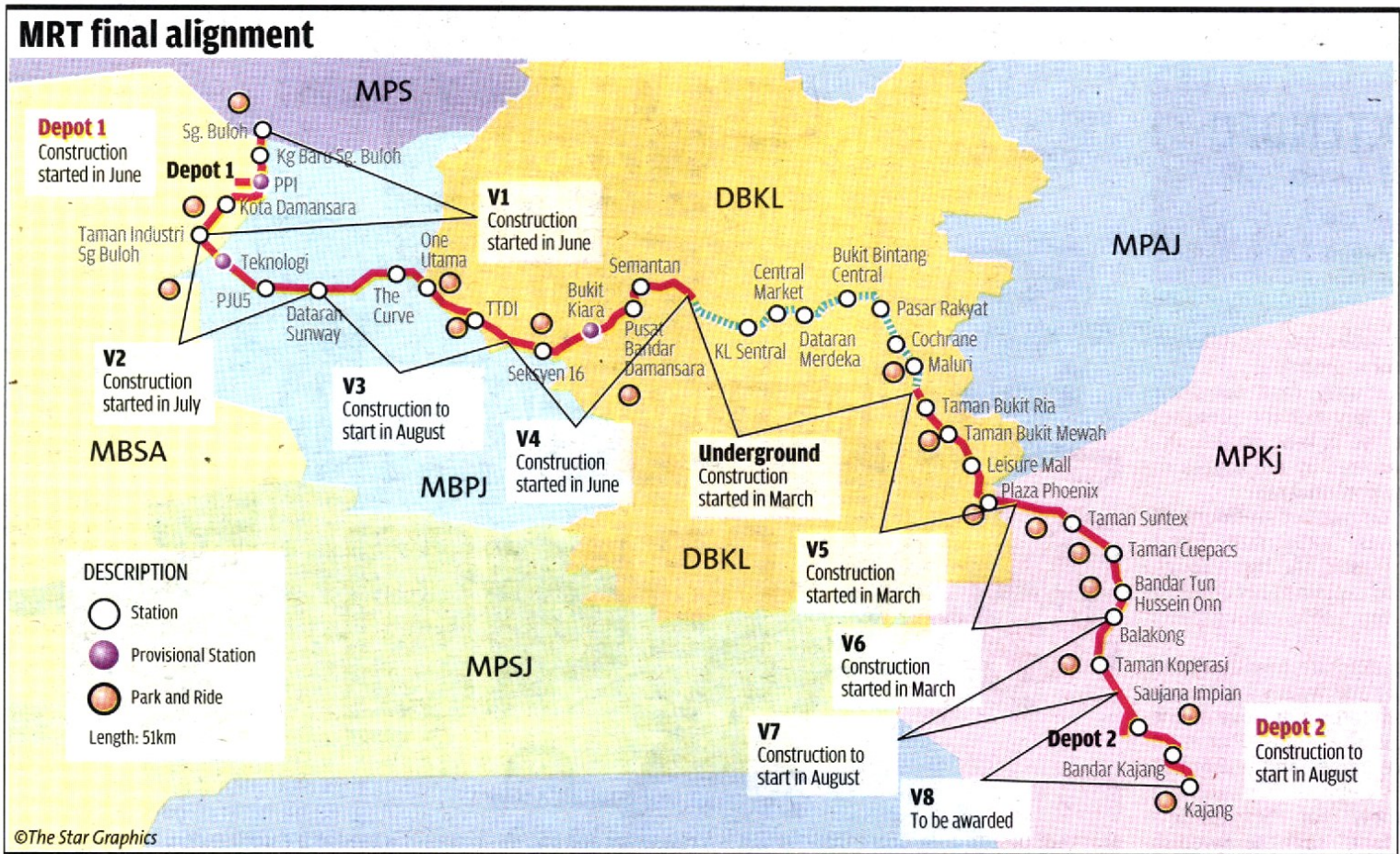


# Houses to remain



## MRT Corp not acquiring properties in Pinggir Zaaba after all

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**M**ASS Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp) has confirmed that it will not acquire the 25 houses in Pinggir Zaaba, Taman Tun Dr Ismail in Kuala Lumpur.

MRT Corp strategic communications and public relations director Amir Mahmood Razak said its special compensation committee had rejected the acquisition plan on grounds that there was no legal requirement to do so.

"We had focused our attention on the 25 houses, which were closest to the alignment since September last year. The original request was for them to be relocated. After speaking to the house-owners, they were interested in

the compensation plan.

"We submitted the papers to the special compensation committee two weeks after conducting property evaluation. The committee rejected it, as it will cause unnecessary precedence in the future," said Amir during a media briefing at the MRT Information Centre in Taman Tun Dr Ismail yesterday.

He said that under the railway protection zone laws, only properties which were six metres from the MRT alignment would be acquired. He gave the example of Taman Maluri where properties very close to the track were acquired.

Amir also said MRT Corp had agreed to take steps to reduce noise and air pollution when the construction began.

"Hoardings will be constructed to block noise and ensure safety while sound deflectors and absorbers will be added.

"We are also looking into the feasibility of putting up nets to mitigate dust pollution," Amir said, adding that rubber tracks would be a prominent feature in preventing noise pollution.

Since January last year, Pinggir Zaaba residents were faced with a dilemma when MRT Corp announced that it had plans to acquire properties in the area.

*StarMetro* reported on July 5 that 44 homeowners (not including the 25 houses) in Pinggir Zaaba had voiced out that the encroachment of the Klang Valley Mass/My Rapid Transport (KVMRT) would affect them and wanted MRT Corp to realign the track.

They were worried about the devaluation of property prices and wanted mitigation work to be carried out on individual houses, among others.

During the media briefing, Amir announced that RM15.5bil in contracts have been awarded to 33 out of the 85 packages. MRT Corp will make an announcement by year-end for new contracts for the Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line 1, which will include train purchases, V8 viaduct and construction of stations.

Meanwhile, Amir said 18 out of 24 property owners in Jalan Sultan had signed the agreement.

"Two more property owners have agreed to the acquisition while one has agreed to look into the points of agreement," said Amir.