

'Public was consulted on MRT route'

ENGAGEMENT DONE:

Project got 91pc approval rating, says MRT chief

AKIL YUNUS

KUALA LUMPUR
akil@nst.com.my

THE Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd has reiterated that it got the public's views before starting on the Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit project.

This follows fresh objections from the Jalan Sultan community here.

MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said yesterday the railway scheme for the 51km Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line had been publicly displayed to invite feedback before construction began.

"The display, held between March and May last year, received no less than 6,000 responses and the project approval rating was 91 per cent.

"More than 50 engagement sessions with groups and communities were also held during this period, resulting in 18 signed Points of Agreement (POA)," Azhar said in a statement.

He said the memorandum sent by the Jalan Sultan community last week raised issues that had already been addressed by the corporation.

"None of the issues in their document is new.

"We have consistently responded to similar questions and have

dutifully considered public input before deciding on the final alignment of the SBK line."

Azhar refuted claims by the group, led by member of parliament for Bukit Bintang Fong Kui Lun, that they had not been consulted on the final alignment of the SBK line.

"The group that came to us maintains that a public display is not the same as public consultation, when in fact, they are.

"The aim of the display was to allow the public to voice their opinions on the alignment and project as a whole."

Azhar added that the social impact of the project had already been covered under the detailed environment impact assessment.

"We had commissioned a heritage study of the affected buildings in Pasar Seni and the National Heritage Department issued a report in April stating that the areas were not heritage zones.

"There is a clear distinction between heritage and historic zones."

Azhar said that even if the areas were marked as heritage zones by their owners, MRT Corp would not be affected as it did not plan on altering or demolishing these buildings.

"All we want to do is build a tunnel leading to the underground Pasar Seni station.

"The buildings being demolished to accommodate this venture (Klang bus stand, Plaza Warisan and Plaza UO) were built in the 1980s and have outlived their useful-



"More than 50 engagement sessions with groups and communities were also held during this period, resulting in 18 signed Points of Agreement."
Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid
MRT CEO

ness."

Azhar also added that soil tests undertaken at the site had proven that Jalan Sultan sat on a formation which was suitable for tunnelling.