

# MRT Corp denies buy-out plan

> Acquisition of 25 homes to make way for rail project found unnecessary

BY **MICHELLE CHUN**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** MRT Corp has denied it promised a buy-out plan for 25 residential houses in Pinggir Zaaba to make way for the Sungai Buloh-Kajang Blue Line of the mass railway transit project.

“MRT Corp never agreed to a buy-out plan for the Pinggir Zaaba homes, but rather said it would consider a buy-out subject to the government’s approval,” an MRT Corp spokesman said.

Pinggir Zaaba spokesman Saleh Mohammed, however, told *theSun* five property valuations had been carried out and that MRT Corp even asked the residents for their offers in June.

“They then took the residents’ offer to the special compensation committee,

which eventually found acquisition unnecessary.

“MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid agreed to the buy-out, did the valuations, asked for what we wanted, then passed the buck to the special compensation committee, which concluded we were not within six metres of construction site to make acquisition compulsory,” he claimed.

MRT Corp strategic communications and public relations director Amir Mahmood Razak had on Wednesday said acquiring the properties would have set an unsustainable precedent as other properties within 15 metres of the line would start demanding acquisition.

Saleh said he had been informed by MRT Corp that 292 properties along the line would be affected by this precedent,

but claimed the project overseer did not further inform them of where these properties were.

“We are not within 6m, but we are within 15m and this is not measured from our gate, but rather from our door.”

Saleh questioned why the line had to cut through their road instead of being aligned through Damansara Utama, if MRT Corp still insisted on not going through with acquisition. “We were also promised the trees in the area would not be felled, but three weeks ago we were told they are going to cut down the trees, so hoardings, sound deflectors and nettings aren’t going to help reduce noise levels very much,” he said.

MRT Corp informed that a media briefing will be held on Aug 10, during which all these issues will be addressed.