



**Cause for concern:** MRT Corp barricades have been put up along the Pinggir Zaaba road in Taman Tun Dr Ismail. (Inset) Segambut Barisan Nasional chairman Jayanthi Devi Balaguru (left) and Norliza at the press conference.

# MRT Corp to face legal action

## Pinggir Zaaba residents resort to move over house acquisition plan

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Residents of Pinggir Zaaba in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur, will be taking legal action against Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp) on the grounds that it has misled them into believing that residents will be compensated for the acquisition of their houses for the MRT project.

Resident Norliza Kamaruddin said a letter of intent had been hand-delivered to MRT Corp by their appointed counsel on Aug 16.

"We have been taken for a ride by MRT Corp as we were made to believe that they will compensate us accordingly for the acquisition of our houses.

"However, when the special compensation committee (SCC) rejected the acquisition plan on the basis that there was no legal requirement to do so and that it would create an unnecessary precedent for similar situations in the future, we had no choice but to resort to this," Norliza said at a press conference held at her house in Pinggir Zaaba yesterday.

She said MRT Corp's action in passing the bulk to the SCC was wrong, as it was MRT Corp that had been discussing the acquisition plan of the properties with the residents since January last year.

"MRT Corp gave us assurances that they would help us in the

'willing buyer and willing seller' proposal. They told us not to speak to the press, not to picket and not to go to any politicians for help and we listened, believing that they would keep their word," she said, adding that 11 meetings were held so far since January last year to discuss the acquisition plan.

She added that in that time, their properties were evaluated five times, leading residents to believe that MRT Corp was serious about the acquisition plan.

According to Norliza, when the notice of acquisition was put up, residents had approached the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) and Syarikat Prasarana Negara Bhd (SPNB) asking for realignment of the tracks, relocation to a reserve land nearby, commercialisation of the area or acquisition of the properties.

However, MRT Corp decided that the others were not amicable and proposed for the acquisition plan.

"We are not against the MRT project but our livelihood will be disrupted. Parts of the Pinggir Zaaba road will be closed to facilitate construction work and we will face problems such as parking and accessibility in case there is an emergency," Norliza said.

She added that MRT Corp had said that they would not cut down trees in the area, but this is unlikely to be the case once construction begins.

MRT Corp said it would issue a response later.