

MRT Corp says it will counter-sue

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MRT Corporation will counter-sue if Pinggir Zaaba residents go to court alleging it had misled them.

Chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said MRT Corp would consider legal action against them for "badmouthing" the project.

"If what they did was a mistake, we will ignore it. If it's intentional, we will do what's necessary," he said yesterday.

"A decision will be made once our lawyers finish studying representations made by Pinggir Zaaba spokesman Norliza Kamarudin at a media conference on Aug 24."

The residents claim that Azhar had promised that MRT would compensate them for the acquisition of their homes for the MRT project.

Azhar said he had never made such a promise, and that the possibility of acquiring the houses was mooted as a "goodwill gesture".

"MRT Corp does not have legal obligation to acquire the properties as they are beyond the six-metre Railway Protection Zone."

Azhar said he suggested the possibility of acquiring the houses, but stressed it was not a promise, but an option. "They were fully aware that the final decision lies with the Special Compensation Committee who had rejected it on grounds that it would be a bad precedent for the rest of the project," he said.

He claimed some of the residents had been badmouthing the project right after the SCC had rejected the proposal to have their houses acquired and compensated for by MRT Corp.

The current MRT alignment will sit 14.5 to 15.9 meters from the doors of the homes.

He said that MRT Corp would outlay mitigating measures to make sure that the impact of the MRT alignment would be minimal to the residents, making sure none of the houses' facades faces an MRT pillar, and installing sound deflectors to reduce the noise pollution.