

Scare tactics

> Car park operators claim harassment by MRT developer

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KUALA LUMPUR: Two car park operators are claiming that the developer of the Mass Rapid Transit project has hired thugs to scare them off from their sites located in Bukit Bintang.

Gerak Kilat Sdn Bhd and Smart Interpark Sdn Bhd, which have been operating at the sites for 15 years, claimed they had been harassed by the thugs since July.

Smart Interpark director P. Sivanayam said MMC Gamuda KGV MRT (T) Sdn Bhd's alleged action in hiring the thugs was illegal as he had a legally binding rental agreement with the landowner, Pavilion Entertainment

Centre Sdn Bhd.

"They can't force us out. The land owner has not given us any notice that they want to terminate the agreement or evict us. This is not right," he told reporters in front of the fenced-off car park in Bukit Bintang yesterday.

Sivanayam said that the company has been paying rent to the land owner faithfully but is currently embroiled in a legal tussle with the developer over the land rent agreement.

"Our lawyers believed that our business should not be affected until the case is over. And if they do evict us, we expect a fair compensation," he said.

Meanwhile, S. Sathiya of Gerak Kilat

claimed that on July 22, several thugs armed with machetes and pistols came to tell him to stop operating the car park.

He said the thugs threatened to crush him with a 1.2-tonne stone hoisted by a crane.

"I made a police report the next day. However, the police said I was the one who had trespassed on the land. It is outrageous," he said.

Sathiya, who is a director of Gerak Kilat, lodged another police report on Sept 19 over the incident.

Both Sathiya and Sivanayam claimed that they have video recordings of the incidents involving the thugs.

MMC Gamuda declined to comment when contacted by *theSun*.