



MEDIA RELEASE

JALAN SULTAN SHOPHOUSE OWNERS SIGN MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH MRT CORP

MRT Corp: Historic signing is a win-win approach

Kuala Lumpur, 18 July 2013: The owners of 20 properties in the Jalan Sultan area of Kuala Lumpur which are affected by the Klang Valley MRT Project have signed Mutual Agreements (MA) with Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp).

With the signing of the MA, issues concerning land which resulted from alignment of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line running beneath Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown have been resolved and the properties will not be acquired by the Government.

The 20 properties are part of 23 properties which will be situated above the future tunnel of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line. They comprise of 19 shophouses in Jalan Sultan and the Kuala Lumpur Gospel Hall in Jalan Hang Jebat.

The remaining three properties, whose owners did not sign the MA, were acquired under the Land Acquisition Act 1960. Of the three, two of their owners had no objections to their properties being acquired and compensated by the Government. The third property, namely Lok Ann Hotel, is being acquired because its owners could not reach a mutual agreement with MRT Corp as they disagree with the quantum of compensation being offered to them under the MA.

MRT Corp Chief Executive Office Dato' Azhar Abdul Hamid thanked the owners of the 20 properties for signing the MA.

"I will always be grateful to the owners for cooperating with MRT Corp which has brought about this win-win solution that benefits both parties. I am very happy that our negotiations which went on for two years bore fruit," he said.



Dato' Azhar said the signing of the MA was historic as this was the first time where there was no compulsory acquisition of private properties under the Land Acquisition Act 1960 for privately-owned land above a railway tunnel. The owners will continue to own their properties and carry on their businesses as before, while MRT Corp constructs the tunnel below their buildings.

Previously, all private property lying above any tunnel built for rail, road or any other public purpose was compulsorily acquired with the owners duly compensated.

"I must also thank the Prime Minister YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Culture Minister Dato' Seri Nazri who was then Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, and the various Government departments and agencies helping MRT Corp embark on the MA approach to solve the Jalan Sultan issue.

"This goes to prove that the Government listens to the people and will always try to find an amicable solution to issues which concern them," he said.

Dato' Azhar said the MA were signed in batches between May and the middle of July.

He said it was never MRT Corp's intention for the properties to be acquired. This was because the MRT Project did not need the properties but only a portion of the land underneath them for the MRT tunnel.

Under the MA, MRT Corp will carry out and pay for structure strengthening works on the buildings. This will ensure that they do not suffer any damage when tunneling is carried out. Such works will commence in a few months' time.

Occupants of several shoplots where the strengthening works are expected to cause inconvenience will vacate their premises for a period between one and three months. Occupants of shoplots where there will be minimal work will not need to vacate at all and can continue living in and carrying on business as usual from the premises.

After the buildings are strengthened, there will not be any need for the occupants to vacate their properties when tunneling is carried in the area in July 2014.



Dato' Azhar said the shophouse owners, and Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown as a whole, stand to benefit from the MRT Project as the Pasar Seni MRT Station. The station will be a major interchange station with the Kelana Jaya LRT Line and will bring thousands of people, both locals and tourists, to the area.

ENDS

For media enquiries, please contact:

Mr. Leong Shen-Li
MRT Corp

03-20813182 / leong.shen-li@mymrt.com.my

Ms. Nadia Azmi
MRT Corp

03-20813185 / nadia.azmi@mymrt.com.my