

MEDIA RELEASE

OCCUPANTS TO TEMPORARILY VACATE SHOPLOTS DURING BUILDING STRENGTHENING WORKS

Kuala Lumpur, 17 May 2014: Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) wishes to state that building strengthening works for 12 shoplots along Jalan Sultan within the MRT alignment has been progressing smoothly.

To date, building strengthening works for nine out of the 12 affected shoplots which began at the end of last year have been completed or are almost completed.

During the strengthening works, occupants of the shoplots temporarily vacated for periods of between three and 12 weeks. The works have been progressing smoothly with the cooperation of shoplot owners and the nine tenants involved.

The building strengthening works and vacating the occupants temporarily were items which were agreed on between MRT Corp and the owners of the shoplots under the Mutual Agreements signed last year.

The Mutual Agreements were to enable the shoplots to coexist with the MRT tunnel beneath without the need for the land to be compulsorily acquired by the Government under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act 1960.

Recognising how smooth the building strengthening process had proceeded so far, MRT Corp Chief Executive Officer Datuk Wira Azhar Abdul Hamid thanked the owners and tenants of these buildings for giving their full cooperation.

"All the owners of shoplots which have undergone building strengthening works have expressed their happiness with the work done. Their tenants are also happy as they are getting renovated premises," he said.

Datuk Azhar hoped building strengthening works for the remaining three lots, including that belonging to Yan Keng Benevolent Dramatic Association, would proceed smoothly as with the other shoplots.

Responding to statements made during a media conference today, he said the tenants of Yan Keng Benevolent Dramatic Association building need to temporarily vacate the premises when building strengthening works are carried out in July 2014.



"This arrangement is exactly the same as that for tenants of the other shoplots. The other tenants included a restaurant, a tea shop, a hotel, offices and many retail outlets," he said.

On the issue of compensation to tenants, Datuk Azhar said it was clearly stated in the Mutual Agreement that there will be compensation paid by MRT Corp to the owners.

This compensation would cover all compensation arising from the building strengthening works, including compensation to tenants, which may not just cover monetary compensation but also rental waivers. The arrangement between the shoplot owners and tenants will be governed by their respective tenancy agreements.

"Again, this arrangement had worked very well with the other tenants since building strengthening works began at the end of last year and there have not been any issues arising," he said.

Datuk Azhar wanted to remind all parties that compensation paid by MRT Corp was taxpayers' money.

"In view of this, no exceptions can be made to the terms which had been agreed to in the Mutual Agreement," he said.

He reiterated that the terms of the Mutual Agreement had worked very well for the earlier shoplots and hoped that it would be the same for the remaining lots, allowing the tenants resume their daily business operations as quickly as possible.

ENDS

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