

# MRT Corp awaits decision on Ampang Park

*The judicial review was initiated by the owners instead of responding to MRT Corp's offer*

by **PREMALATHA JAYARAMAN**

MASS Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) is waiting for the court's decision on the proposal to demolish Ampang Park Shopping Centre (APSC).

MRT Corp director of strategic communications and stakeholder relations Datuk Najmuddin Abdullah said the firm had in 2015 met with owners of APSC several times to find ways to resolve the issue.

During one of the sessions, he said MRT Corp offered an alternative design where the location of the MRT station would be shifted slightly and the connection between the future MRT station and the existing light rail transit (LRT) station would be achieved via an underground pedestrian

linkway beneath APSC.

"First and foremost, the question regarding the acquisition of APSC is currently before the court. The judicial review was initiated by the owners of the strata lots themselves instead of responding to MRT Corp's offer of a mutual agreement for co-existence," he said in a statement yesterday.

"As the owners have decided to bring this matter before the court, MRT Corp cannot proceed further but wait for the court to make a decision," he said. "This option, which required the owners of all 253 strata lots to agree, would have saved APSC from being acquired and demolished. The 100% agreement requirement is a legal requirement," he said.

Najmuddin said this option was rejected by the owners when they did not come back with any decision or alternative proposal by the agreed deadline.

"Instead, they decided to go to court and file the judicial review. So now we wait for the



*Pic by Muhd Amin Nahanul*

**Najmuddin says an underground MRT station has to be built at the current location of the APSC to enable seamless integration between the future MRT station and the existing Ampang Park LRT station**

court to decide on the matter, he said, adding that MRT Corp would abide by the decision of the court.

He said the judicial review was filed on Jan 8, 2016, by 39 owners of strata lots.

On June 30, 2016, the High Court made a decision in favour of the government by

declaring the land acquisition process valid.

The owners appealed against this decision to the Court of Appeal, which on Jan 18, 2017, rejected the appeal and agreed with the High Court's decision in favour of the government.

Najmuddin said the owners

again appealed against this decision and the matter is now pending leave by the Federal Court as to whether the latest appeal had sufficient grounds to be heard.

"A lot of studies went into determining the ideal location, and the current alignment and station location are the most

optimal. Other alignment and station location options would bring on greater negative technical, financial and social impact," he said.

Najmuddin said an underground MRT station had to be built at the current location of the APSC to enable seamless integration between the future MRT station and the existing Ampang Park LRT station.

Without an MRT station at this location, he said there would not be any interchange between the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) line and the Kelana Jaya LRT line.

He said this would result in passengers on both lines not being able to transfer from one service to the other, hence limiting the connectivity of both lines.

The 52.2km SSP line is expected to be completed by 2022 and will serve as a corridor with a population of about two million people. It is projected to have a daily ridership of 529,000 passengers.