

City Hall to meet stakeholders

SEEKING SOLUTIONS: Mayor to discuss details of MRT project with stakeholders from four areas

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CITY Hall will be calling for a meeting between MRT Corporation and stakeholders in four areas around the city to discuss the MY Rapid Transit (MRT) project.

Mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail said the meeting with stakeholders from Jalan Inai, Jalan Sultan, Jalan Bukit Bintang and Taman Tun Dr

Ismail will be held after the Chinese New Year celebrations.

"Ninety per cent have agreed to the MRT project, which will run from Sungai Buloh to Kajang. We will be visiting the remaining four areas to discuss the issues raised by the stakeholders," he said after distributing mandarin oranges and Federal Territories flags to traders in Petaling Street.

Also present was Bukit Bintang MP Fung Kui Lun, Bukit Bintang MCA chairman Frankie Gan and



Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail (centre) with officials and traders in Petaling Street. Pics by Farizul Hafiz Awang

Kuala Lumpur Hawkers and Petty Traders Association vice-president Datuk Ang Say Tee.

Fuad said there will be no land acquisition in Jalan Sultan and the buildings there will remain as heritage buildings.

He said one of the solutions suggested is to relocate them for six months during the duration of the project at Jalan Sultan.

"City Hall is doing its best to look into maintaining the historical values of the buildings at Jalan Sultan. As for the MRT project, we will have to meet the property owners to discuss the project," he said.

Fuad also encouraged property owners in Jalan Sultan to refurbish their buildings to add more Chinese features to the area. He said that Petaling Street, which is a major tourist attraction in the city, should always maintain its uniqueness.

"We don't want outsiders coming here and tainting Petaling Street. We want to maintain the heritage iden-

tity here and at the same time we want the area to co-exist with the MRT project," he said.

Property owners in all four areas are unhappy that their land might be acquired for the MRT project.

Last week, those who would be affected by land acquisition on Jalan Sultan held a gathering called "Preserve Jalan Sultan From Land Acquisition" at the Chinese Assembly Hall to voice their concerns.

They were unhappy that they were told to sign a mutual agreement with MRT Corporation (MRT Corp) before Jan 30. The letter they received said that if the land owners did not agree to sign the agreement, the Land and Mines Department (Federal) will acquire the land based on the Land Acquisition Act 1960.

There are about 31 shop owners in Jalan Sultan with each shop valued up to RM4 million.

The briefing also saw the participation of Taman Tun Dr Ismail and Gombak residents.

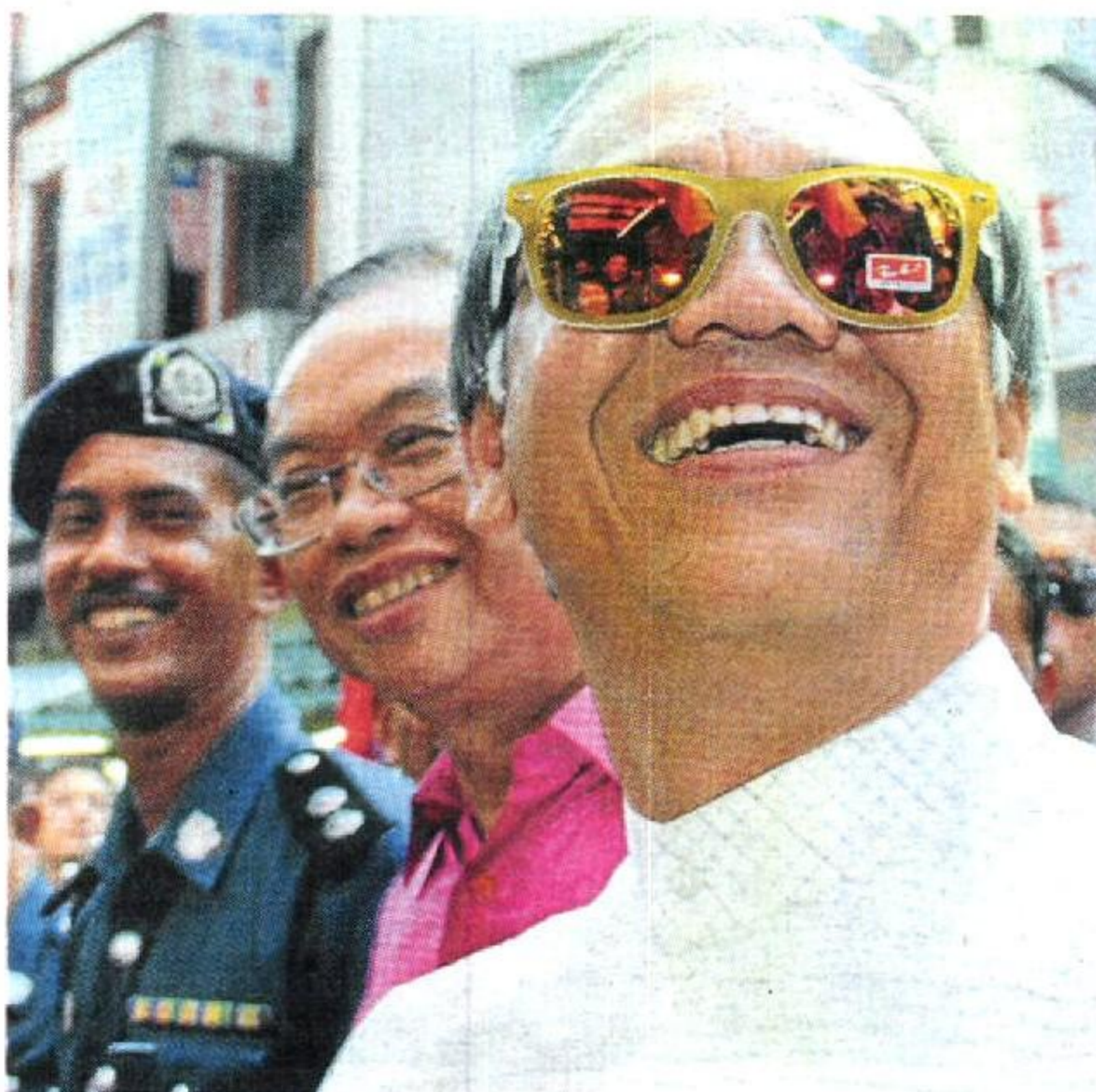
Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall secretary-general Yong Yew Wei said: "Mobility can be improved by increasing the number of buses in the city. The public does not have to rely heavily on the trains," he said.

When completed the MRT will provide a fast train service to 1.2 million people along the route. The line will be integrated with the existing KTM Komuter, LRT lines and feeder bus networks.

Meanwhile, Fuad said Petaling Street will be decorated with 460 lanterns for Chinese New Year. He also said that City Hall will be decorating the city with 11,000 lanterns.

On the issue of blacklisting developers, which was reported recently, Fuad said they will only be named on City Hall's website as incompetent developers.

He clarified that the council does not have the power to blacklist them. **Additional reporting by Sarah Rahim**



Fuad tries out a sunglasses from one of the outlets in Petaling Street during his walkabout.