

# MRT Corp becomes party in suit

**INTERVENER BID:** Firm has direct interest in project linked to planned demolition of Ampang Park

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**M**ASS Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) has become a party in a legal bid to halt the demolition of the Ampang Park Shopping Centre.

The High Court yesterday allowed MRT Corp to be added as a co-respondent in the mall traders' judicial review against the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office

director and Federal Territories Land Administrator.

Senior federal counsel Nik Haizie Azlin Nabidin said judge Datuk Hanipah Farikullah allowed MRT Corp's intervener bid as the company had direct interest in the MRT project linked to the planned demolition, which may be affected by the outcome of the legal action.

Nik Haizie, who acted for the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office director and Federal Territories Land Administrator, said

the court had set June 30 to hear the judicial review.

Counsel Datuk Edward Ng Boon Siong, who represented the 39 traders, confirmed that the decision was delivered after Hanipah heard the bid in her chambers.

Initially, the respondents were the Federal Government, the Federal Territories Ministry, the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office director, and the Federal Territories Land Administrator.

When the court allowed the judicial review to proceed on Jan 20,

the traders dropped the legal action against the Federal Government and Federal Territories Ministry.

A temporary court order has halted the demolition attempt pending the disposal of the judicial review.

On Jan 8, the 39 business owners, including dentist Dr Dzul Khaini Husain, filed the legal bid to overturn the approval for the mall's demolition to make way for an underground walkway connecting the new MRT station to the Am-

ping Park Light Rail Transit (LRT) station.

The applicants are seeking a court order to set aside the decision of the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office director and Federal Territories Land Administrator, which allowed the acquisition of their property.

They claimed the decision was invalid, illegal and violated the Federal Constitution.

They are seeking a court order to stop land acquisition proceedings linked to Ampang Park.