

Firefighters' children want former home preserved

SEREMBAN: The Fire and Rescue Department building in Jalan Rahang that used to be its staff quarters should be preserved as a national heritage site because of its historical value and significance to firefighters who lived there over the years.

Bahrom Abu Bakar, chairman of Kelab Anak-Anak Bomba, a club representing the children of firefighters, said the Housing and Local

Government Ministry should retain the building which was built in 1959, two years after independence.

In recent years, the department used the former quarters as an administrative building.

"The quarters has a rich history and is nostalgic for those who served as firefighters, their children and families who lived there and it is also a piece of history

for Malaysian firefighters.

"It is understood that the building will be demolished to make way for the construction of a new building.

"Some are hoping that the quarters will remain and be restored to serve as a museum," Bahrom said.

Some 300 children of firefighters held a gathering yesterday to share stories of their lives at the quarters.

However, there was also an air of

gloom as the building could be demolished.

Bahrom said those at the gathering recalled their bittersweet memories of the "G-ranked" government quarters that housed 12 units.

"Although at the time many of our parents had quite a number of children, causing us to live and sleep in cramped conditions, most of us have succeeded and have become professionals.

"We are proposing that the building be restored as a gallery or museum of the Negri Sembilan Fire and Rescue Department.

"Many of the department's historical materials between 1940 and 1950 are still in the possession of family members who lived at the quarters.

"It can all be gathered for display at the proposed gallery," he said.
— Bernama