

Newspaper	New Straits Time
Date	16/5/2011

PM: Huge potential in Qatar



PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak urged Malaysian businesses to participate in Qatar's US\$140 billion (RM420.3 billion) development programme.

He said this was because the Qatari government was impressed with the performance of small Malaysian businesses undertaking construction and engineering projects here, and welcomed more Malaysian firms.

"The opportunities are numerous. The Qatari government has acknowledged our contributions to and performance in the construction and engineering sectors.

"We should make good their confidence in us by participating in the country's massive development programme, estimated at US\$140 billion."

He said this at the end of his two-day visit to Qatar.

Najib, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, described his meeting with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani as productive.

They discussed many issues, including the greater participation of Malaysian businesses in the sheikhdom, he added.

"I informed him that we have expertise in a number of sectors, including construction, infrastructure and engineering.

"I also informed him that our businesses can invest in Qatar, especially as the country prepares to host the football World Cup in 2022."

He said another giant Qatari project that Malaysian firms should participate in was the Heart of Doha



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak talking with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani (right) during a meeting in Doha yesterday. With them is Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani. — Bernama picture

development programme.

It involves the construction of more than 100 government buildings, stadiums and sports complexes.

Najib, taking up the role of Malaysia's top salesman, suggested to Sheikh Hamad tie-ups between Malaysian and Qatari companies in the construction, engineering and road-building sectors to carry out

projects in other countries.

"I also suggested we explore opportunities in oil and gas as well as the petroleum industry between Petronas and Qatar's national petroleum company. I said we should look into the possibility of Petronas and the Qatari petroleum company carrying out joint projects in Third World countries."

On Qatar's investment in Malaysia, he said work on the proposed real estate development in Sungai Besi between a Qatari company and IMDB, estimated at RM15 billion, would start next month after issues concerning the relocation of the Royal Malaysian Air Force base were resolved.

He said the government appreci-

ated Qatar's investment in the Pavilion shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur

Najib and Rosmah were accorded a private audience with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani. This is considered a great honour to Najib and Malaysia as the emir seldom gives private audiences to state guests.