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## Mammoth project proves Govt keen on major transformation

JOHOR BARU: The mammoth development taking shape in Iskandar Malaysia is enough evidence that the Government is committed to implementing major transformation in the country, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

As such, the Prime Minister said the people should have the confidence that the Barisan Nasional would make good on the pledges it had made.

"These are not just mere promises. See the development taking place.

"We also did not overlook Johor Barucity and are now looking at extending a connection from Singapore into the city. We are also looking into rejuvenating Sungai Segget," he said at the launch of the

annual Chingay parade here yesterday.

The Barisan chairman urged Johoreans not to "miscalculate", saying the state was in the brink of achieving major successes which would lead to economic prosperity.

On the Chingay event, he said that it brought together five Chinese dialects and showed the diversity of the country.

"This is not just a religious event but also a tourist attraction," Najib added before announcing the annual event as a national heritage.

Tiong Hua Association president Lim Ik Kim estimated that over 250,000 people attended the parade this year, making it the largest ever since its inception decades ago.

Earlier in the day, Najib launched the 15th anniversary celebrations of Danga Bay and announced that a popular stretch, previously known as Pantai Lido, would be transformed into a major commercial, entertainment and residential site to propel Johor Baru into a visionary and modern waterfront city in the region.

He said the Government would pump RM200mil to kickstart the mammoth project to include a marina, cruise terminal, fisherman's wharf, shopping malls, hotels and residential buildings along the shores of the Johor Straits.

The Iskandar Waterfront City development, spanning 25km and covering both the eastern and western sides of the Johor Causeway, will

see one of the country's biggest urban transformation programmes.

To be carried out in phases over 25 years with a gross development of RM80bil, it will be a public-private partnership between the Government and Iskandar Waterfront Holdings Sdn Bhd (IWH).

Present at the event were the Johor Sultan, his consort as well as the Tengku Mahkota and Tengku Temenggong of Johor and members of the royal family.

The Sultan had earlier launched the Iskandar Malaysia information centre and witnessed a performance by 118 dragon dance troupes before joining in the *yee sang* tossing ceremony with other dignitaries.