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# RM139b boost for Johor

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68,000 by 2020

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**JOHOR BARU:** A total of 59 projects are expected to bring in RM139.3bil in investments by 2020 and create 68,000 job opportunities in Johor, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He noted that the projects, under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), would not only change Iskandar Malaysia's landscape but also Pengerang in the South East and Mersing in the North East.

The 27 entry point projects (EPP) would cover the education, tourism and the oil and gas sectors while the 32 Quality Living Projects under the Johor Baru transformation plan would cover safety and security, improvements in living standards in the city and also its road and transport systems.

"These projects will help generate RM25.57bil for the country's gross national income (GNI) and create 68,000 job opportunities by 2020," he said when launching the Iskandar Malaysia City and Corridor Transformation Programme here yesterday.

Najib said the education projects would cover the setting up of more private and international schools and universities, increasing the number of academic staff and making Iskandar a centre for excellence and innovation.

He said the tourism projects were mainly to ensure smoother tourist accessibility and movement into Iskandar.

"The oil and gas projects in Pengerang by



**Looking to the future:** Najib and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor looking at a model of Iskandar Malaysia yesterday. — Bernama

Petronas will be the biggest in the country," he added.

On security projects, Najib said high technology would be used in policing while transportation involved developing new road systems and introducing an integrated ticketing system for public transport users.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that Najib's approval rating climbed to 69% from 59% in August 2011, according to the Merdeka Centre for Opinion Research.

It attributed this to the improving public

mood over the general economy and disbursement of funding to alleviate the economic burden of low-income households.

The findings also showed that as many as one-third of the respondents, who were inclined towards Pakatan Rakyat, reported satisfaction with the Prime Minister.

Positive feelings towards the Government were higher among older voters and lowest among younger voters, according to the survey which was carried out to gauge voters' perception of current developments in the country.