

Newspaper	The Star
Date	17/7/2013

Caviar boost for Felda

The Star
17/7/2013

1,300 settlers to benefit from RM120mil sturgeon project

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PUTRAJAYA: An eight-hectare sturgeon farming complex worth RM120mil will be built in Pahang under the East Coast Economic Region (ECER), expected to benefit some 1,300 Felda settlers and their families.

The sturgeon farm could produce up to 30 metric tonnes of caviar per year, with a potential revenue of nearly RM100mil – at a market price of between US\$3,000 (RM9,000) and US\$5,000 (RM15,000) per kg.

Jerantut and Jengka have so far been identified as among the potential locations for the project.

The East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) said the project is expected to generate a monthly income of around RM10,000 for the participating settlers, with a payback period of seven years.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak witnessed yesterday the exchange of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Felda Investment Corporation and MMC Co Ltd of South Korea, who are partners in the joint venture.

“The ECER has attracted RM49bil worth of investments since 2007 which have created close to 40,000 jobs for the people.

“During the first half of this year alone, ECER has already attracted some RM23.64bil worth of investments, surpassing ECERDC’s investment 2013 target of RM15bil,” Najib said in a statement.

He added that the sturgeon farm concept would be expanded to the surrounding Felda settlers to create a regional sturgeon aqua-farm.

Najib also witnessed the exchange of MoU between ECERDC and nine other organisations for projects in the economic region total-



Ideas for the future: Najib posing together with ministers and investors during the ECER programme launch at the Perdana Putra building in Putrajaya. – Bernama

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– DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK

ling RM744mil.

They were Tropical Consolidated Corporation Sdn Bhd (RM50mil investment - agriculture); Educrest Sdn Bhd (RM108mil - education) and Pahang Applied Advance Pharma Sdn Bhd (RM250mil - halal manufacturing).

Others include FPM Sdn Bhd (RM111mil - manufacturing); Komitmen Mantap Sdn Bhd (RM50mil - manufacturing), RD Paper Sdn Bhd (RM26mil - manufacturing), Ganu DotCom Sdn Bhd (RM17mil - tourism), Heritage Farm

(M) Sdn Bhd (RM7mil - agriculture) and Tok Bali Dockyard and Engineering Sdn Bhd (RM5mil - manufacturing).

To date, Pahang takes the lead as the largest investment in the ECER with RM23.31bil in investments recorded from 2007 until June this year, with some 24,000 jobs created.

This is followed by Terengganu with RM18.62bil in investments (10,850 jobs), Kelantan with RM5.79bil (4,580 jobs) and the Mersing district in Johor with RM1.61bil (208 jobs).

Transportation and infrastructure upgrade plans are also in the pipeline to facilitate economic growth in the ECER.

Some of the projects identified for this year include the Kuantan Port Expansion (completion estimated by 2015), Kertih Biopolymer Park, Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park and Kuala Terengganu City Centre.