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## PRIME NEWS

# Road to good Tanzania ties

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### INVESTMENT TIES:

UEM Group seeks to build a highway to connect Dar es Salaam with surrounding regions

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**A** LEADING Malaysian corporation is in negotiations with the Tanzanian authorities to develop a crucial road link that will boost the economy of this eastern African city.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak said UEM Group Bhd was seeking to build a tolled highway that would connect the city with surrounding regions.

"The Dar es Salaam port is a strategic outlet for Rwanda, Burundi and Zambia. The current roads are congested and so the new highway is very important," the prime minister said.

Malaysia may also get involved in the healthcare sector in Tanzania.

"Khazanah (Nasional Bhd), which owns the second biggest healthcare provider in the world, may explore the possibility of building a specialist hospital in Dar es Salaam that can even meet the needs of the people in surrounding nations," he told Malaysian newsmen at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, here, yesterday.

Najib is in Tanzania for the Global Smart Partnership Dialogue 2013, which began on Friday and



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** and Tanzanian President **Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete** break for lunch during the **Global Smart Partnership Dialogue 2013** in **Dar es Salaam** yesterday. Bernama pic

ends today. The biannual event brings together presidents, prime ministers, civil servants and leading representatives from labour, academia and business.

Najib earlier held a bilateral meeting with Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete at the convention centre.

The president expressed his appreciation to Malaysia for helping Tanzania chart an agenda for change. The measures that Tanzania is adopting, with input from Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala,

are based on Malaysia's government transformation and economic transformation programmes.

Najib also held talks with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni yesterday.

The landlocked east African country has sought Malaysia's help to add value to its economic products. For example, it earns very little from coffee beans, which it exports to Europe.

"Museveni hopes Malaysian companies can enter into smart partnerships to build coffee-processing facilities in Uganda and to

help the country earn much more.

"He is also keen on our companies taking a role in energy production in Uganda," said Najib.

On Saturday, Najib met with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal.

"Algeria wants to deepen ties with Malaysia. A potential sector for collaboration is oil exploration. The Algerian government is inviting Petronas to make a bid to team up with oil exploring firms in the country."

Najib left here for London yesterday evening.