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Najib upbeat about MOP KLIA potential

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SEPANG: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak described the establishment of the Mitsui Outlet Park (MOP) KLIA Sepang as a reflection of Malaysia's persevering spirit for growth and innovation.

Bold developments such as these, he said, would contribute to the country's global competitiveness and strengthen Malaysia's standing as one of the region's best shopping destinations.

Expressing his hope that the prices of goods at MOP KLIA Sepang would be "unbeatable", Najib said the opening of the factory outlet was timely as the surrounding areas had been experiencing good growth in recent years, even in towns not part of the greater Klang Valley, such as Nilai and Seremban.

"Its opening will cater to the needs resulting from this rapid development.

"It is also strategically positioned

to take advantage of Malaysia's increasing tourist arrivals.

"In 2014, we had about 27 million arrivals into the country representing a 6.7 per cent growth from 2013. Of this number, 17 million arrived via the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) alone.

"In this respect, we should be making plans to expand further as the growth rate is impressive," he said at the grand launch of MOP KLIA Sepang here yesterday.

Present were Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Ab Aziz Kaprawi; Japan Ambassador to Malaysia Dr Makio Miyagawa; Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB) chairman Tan Sri Dr Wan Abdul Aziz Wan Abdullah; Mitsui Fudosan president and chief executive officer Masanobu Komoda and MAHB managing director Datuk Badlisham Ghazali.

MOP KLIA Sepang is the first Mit-

sui Outlet Park to feature a flight check-in system and flight information displays within the premises of the outlet mall.

Visitors can expect between 30 and 70 per cent discounts at the 127 outlets available in the first phase of the MOP KLIA Sepang project.

The prime minister was upbeat about MOP KLIA Sepang's potential of being the largest factory outlet establishment in Southeast Asia after the expansion plans are met in 2021.

The project investment of MOP KLIA stood at RM335 million for three phases of development, with its projected gross domestic product (GDP) and gross national income (GNI) of RM235 million and RM220 million, respectively, by year 2020.

The MOP KLIA Sepang is projected to provide more than 1,800 jobs by this year and another

200 by 2018.

All in all, total employment opportunities will reach 2,577 by 2020.

Najib said the collaborative effort between Malaysia Airports and Mitsui Fudosan, under their joint venture company MFMA Sdn Bhd, further underscored Malaysia's bilateral relationship with Japan, which is warm and longstanding with strong political and economic ties.

Collaborations such as these, the prime minister said, would not only serve to cement the ties further, but would also allow Malaysia to benefit from the transfer of knowledge in areas like real estate development and high-performance advanced logistics facilities.

Najib said having premium outlets in Iskandar, Penang and here could contribute as much as RM900 million to Malaysia's GDP and create 1,500 jobs by 2020.