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Malaysians have proven themselves in London, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia and the United Kingdom have strong historic ties and these relations are being raised to new levels.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said this was good for Britain, as well as Malaysians, who would benefit from mutual investments.

"It creates, and has created, thousands of jobs that support hardworking families in our country. Projects like these will contribute to our plans to raise Malaysia to high-income status by 2020, and show that Malaysians can be world leaders and world beaters, wherever they are building, working, trading and teaching, or however they are participating in local societies and economies," he said in his blog NajibRazak.com.

Najib said the government had keenly supported the private sector in promoting Malaysian brands in the international market, including in the UK.

"From a macro perspective, Malaysia's trade with the UK stood at £2.76 billion (RM16.1 billion) last year and Malaysians have invested in everything, from water companies to hotels, and in iconic UK brands, such as Laura Ashley and Lotus."

"But the regeneration of the Battersea Power Station by a Malaysian consortium has been a real flag bearer for our country — London will gain a 'Malaysia Square' — and I believe that EcoWorld's presence will reinforce the message that Malaysia believes in London."

Najib also said work had also commenced on two other Malaysian projects, namely the London City Island on the Leamouth Peninsula in East London, and Wardian, which was opposite Canary Wharf.

Najib wrote that a consortium of Malaysian companies had also made headlines by outbidding other world players to undertake massive redevelopment of the Nine Elms area.

"The site had been derelict for 30 years, and British Prime Minister David Cameron said then it was 'a great day'. He thanked Malaysia for helping to get development going in the heart of London, which has been delayed for too long."

He congratulated EcoWorld-Ballymore for coming up with such a vision.

"I am sure it will swiftly become a well-known landmark. It will not only be a remarkable accomplishment for the developer, but also for Malaysia, as we celebrate a Malaysian company,

EcoWorld, in partnering with the Ballymore Group to develop three prime waterfront sites in London."

Najib also commended the contribution of EcoWorld-Ballymore Holding Co Ltd chairman Tan Sri Liew Kee Sin and his team for demonstrating that Malaysians had the entrepreneurial spirit to compete on the world stage.

Najib was confident that Malaysia would continue to be an attractive destination for foreign direct investments, adding that British investors were especially welcomed.

Projects like these will contribute to our plans to raise Malaysia to high-income status by 2020, and show that Malaysians can be world leaders and world beaters, wherever they are building, working, trading and teaching, or however they are participating in local societies and economies.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak