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Najib: Taman Tugu project to boost KL's standing

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THE prime minister yesterday launched the Taman Tugu project, an initiative to develop, revive and preserve one of Kuala Lumpur's (KL) last few green lungs as a permanent rainforest park.

Covering an area of 66 acres (26.7ha) near the National Monument or Tugu Negara and Lake Garden, the project, which is estimated to cost about RM650 million, is set to be completed by the middle of 2018.

The Taman Tugu project would boost the capital's global standing and it will be synonymous with KL's identity, said Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak.

"As we progress as a nation, we want to make KL a liveable city and not only as a city for business. I hope Taman Tugu will resemble London's Hyde Park or Central Park in New York and it will be synonymous with KL in the future.

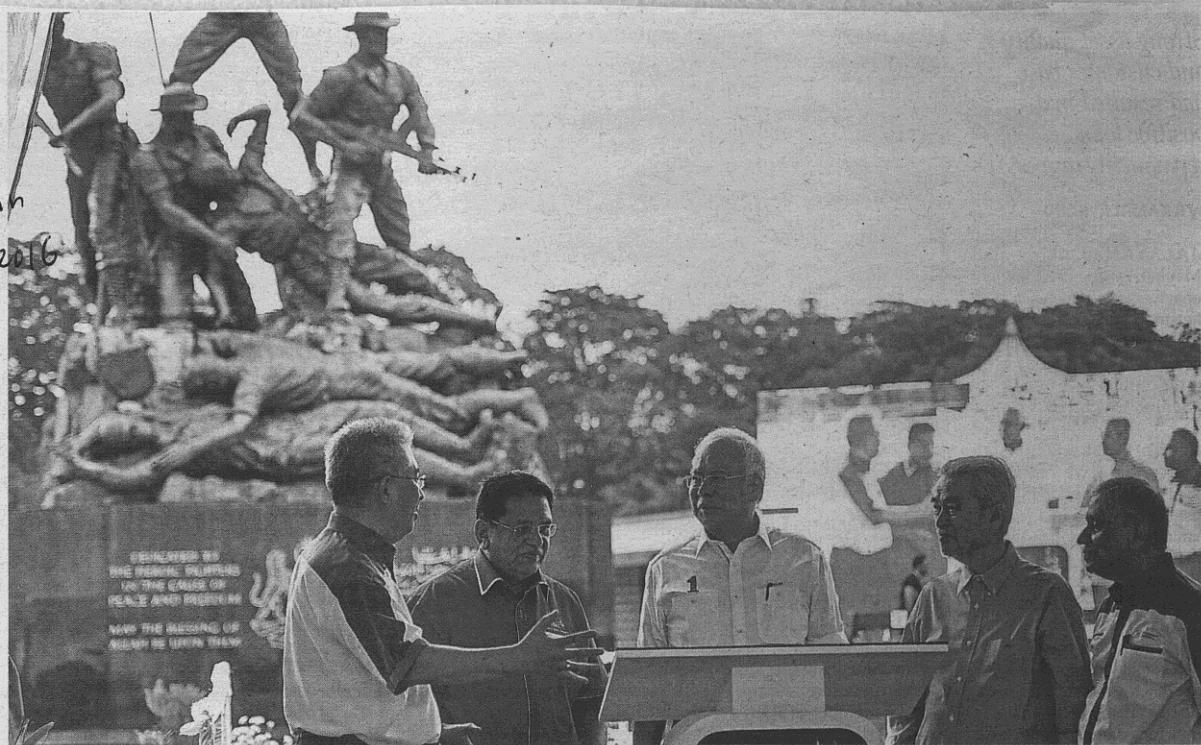
"I am very excited about this project and I want Khazanah (Khazanah Nasional Bhd) to complete it by the middle of 2018. That's the KPI (key performance index) for Khazanah," Najib said at the launch of the project in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Khazanah and other stakeholders which operate within the enclave like Muzium Negara, CIMB Group Holdings Bhd and Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd will develop a pedestrian deck to connect the KL Sentral terminal to the National Monument.

The area's total land value is estimated at RM2.1 billion.

In September last year, Khazanah announced the Taman Tugu and Dataran Muzium project, a non-profit initiative to rejuvenate and reactivate Muzium Negara and separately convert a 66-acre site adjacent to Tugu Negara into a sustainable rainforest park.

The prime minister said the government welcomes public feedback on the project including the naming of the Taman Tugu project.



MAKING KL GREENER: (From left) Khazanah Nasional Bhd MD Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar, Federal Territory Minister Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak, former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Khazanah deputy chairman Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yacop at the launch of Taman Tugu in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Pic by Hafzi Mohamed