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Najib tours Petronas' PIC project

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Prime minister also officiates the successful installation of a propylene fractionator process column

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak took an hour off from his busy schedule yesterday to visit Petroliam Nasional Bhd's (Petronas) Pengerang Integrated Complex (PIC), on an aerial as well as a ground tour.

Accompanied by Petronas president and group CEO Datuk Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin, as well as Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, he also officiated the successful installation of a propylene fractionator process column, for the steam cracker facility at the PIC.

The fractionator, standing at 121.3m and weighing 1,808.6 tonnes, has been recognised as the tallest and heaviest process column in Malaysia by the Malaysia Book of Records.

It processes liquefied petroleum gas and naphtha into ethylene and propylene, which are feedstocks for petrochemical products such as plastics and synthetic rubber.



Najib using an adjustable spanner to tighten the screw of the fractionator to mark the completed installation of the tallest and heaviest process column in Malaysia

In a statement yesterday, Wan Zulkiflee said the PIC is on track for an overall start-up in the first-quarter of 2019.

"It is already 48% completed," he said.

The US\$27 billion (RM119.95 billion) mega development forms part of Malaysia's ambitious 22,000-acre (8,903ha)

Pengerang Integrated Petroleum Complex (PIPC) under the government's Economic Transformation Programme.

The PIC consists of a 300,000bpd refinery and petrochemical complex designed to produce premium differentiated petrochemicals, which will meet domestic demand for

petroleum products and the government's future legislative requirements on implementation of Euro 5 specifications.

There are about 31,000 workers currently employed at the project site, while at the peak of construction in 2017, it is expected to have a workforce of about 60,000 with varying

skills and disciplines.

The development of the PIC also includes associated facilities such as the Pengerang Co-generation Plant, a liquefied natural gas regassification terminal, a raw water supply project and the Pengerang Deepwater Terminal. — *Bernama*