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PM thrilled with Kilang Bateri

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JOHOR BARU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak visited the Kilang Bateri lifestyle mall in Jalan Tampoi here last night and gave his seal of approval to the innovative business concept that provides opportunities for 200 traders of home-grown premium products.

Najib said he was impressed with the idea of the mall, which was converted from a vacant battery factory and then drew traders of various trades to sell their wares under one roof.

He also agreed with Kilang Bateri's founders when they described the place as representing the "soul of Johor Baru".

"If you haven't visited Kilang Bateri, you haven't visited Johor Baru. Its concept is something very innovative. It was an idea based on the creativity of youth, who wanted to set up an interesting place to do business.

"Tonight, I saw for myself how the mall operates. I am drawn to the products and brands that had been created by the youth, all of which are marketable," said Najib after being welcomed to Kilang Bateri by its management.

Opened in June last year, the mall, with 33,000 sqm of retail space, is home to a mix of experienced businesses and newcomers.

It features established Johor brands, such as JOHO and Bin Kareem men's fashion, alongside shops selling designer bags, beauty products, books, gadgets and services, such as printing, a barber shop and tailoring.

Najib said the government, via Khazanah Nasional Bhd, would take care of small traders, such as those operating at Kilang Bateri, through a special grant expected to be announced today.

Present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Johor Baru member of parliament Tan Sri Shahrir Samad and executive council members.



Datuk Seri Najib Razak paying the Kilang Bateri mall in Johor Baru a visit last night. Pic by Muhd Zaaba Zakeria