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Bright future for Johor

ON TRACK: 4 mega projects will boost state's economy, says Najib

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FOUR mega projects will become a catalyst for Johor and the country amid the challenging global economy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Forest City, Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail, Gemas-Johor Baru double tracking project and Pengerang Integrated Petroleum Complex were initiatives that had put the state on track to become a major economic player.

"These four projects will be the catalyst for the state's economy, complemented by development in each district.

"I am confident Johor's future will be bright despite the uncertain economic scenario globally," said Najib when launching the Johor Strategic Development Plan (JSDP) and Iskandar Malaysia Second Comprehensive Development Plan (CPDII) at EduCity Indoor Stadium.

Present was Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

Najib, who was on a one-day working visit to the state, had earlier attended the launch of the Forest City project by Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar.

Najib, who praised the state government and the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (Irda) for formulating the plans, said the Federal Government would ensure that Johor's economy was on the right track as it was a major part of the country's economy.

He said he was proud of Irda's achievement in attracting RM200 billion in cumulative investments since the start of the growth corridor in 2006 until last month.

"The Malaysian Investment Development Authority's statistics revealed that domestic investment into Johor was RM2796 billion last year, while foreign direct investment was RM3.14 billion. It has shown that Johor leads in terms of investments from the manufacturing sector last year, with domestic



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** launching the Johor Strategic Development Plan and Iskandar Malaysia Second Comprehensive Development Plan at EduCity Indoor Stadium in Johor Baru yesterday. With him are (from right) Menteri Besar **Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin**, Irda chief executive **Datuk Ismail Ibrahim** and Johor State Secretary **Datuk Ismail Karim**. Pic by Zulkarnain Ahmad Tajuddin

and foreign direct investments totalling RM31.1 billion or 41.6 per cent of the total investment in Malaysia."

Najib said the state government under Khaled for JSDP, which ensured inclusive and sustainable development, would have a direct impact on the people.

"I am impressed by the plan because it focuses on the niche and strengths of each Johor district. It is an inclusive form of the development.

"It is a plan that was not formulated in Putrajaya but at the districts and grassroots levels.

"It was planned by those who understand the development needs in their respective areas. I congratulate you on this effort."

He said JSDP enabled Johoreans to reap the benefits and not be left out of progress.

Khaled said JSDP was proof of the Johor government's commitment to ensuring the success of the Econom-

ic Transformation Plan, and wanted the plan to be Johor's gift to the Federal Government.

"JSDP is Johor's gift to Malaysia, as the state government believes ETP must be supported through pragmatic and strategic efforts, and not rhetoric.

"The plan will help unleash Johor's economic potential beyond Iskandar Malaysia, Pengerang and Johor Baru."

Among the economic activities carried out in district levels are efforts to turn Segamat as a hub for agriculture, Muar as an education and skills learning hub, and Mersing touted for its tourism and fisheries activities.

CDPIL (2016-2025) emphasises development planning, including ensuring that domestic or foreign investments derived must be planned and regulated.

→ See also Page B2