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PRIME NEWS

Saving heritage for future generations

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LANDMARKS: PM praises Khazanah for developing Dataran Muzium and Taman Tugu

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has called for the preservation of local art, tradition and heritage for future generations. In a Facebook posting, Na-

jib cited Khazanah Nasional Bhd's (Khazanah) two projects on historic landmarks in the city as an important heritage for Malaysians.

"I am excited with the proposed plan to develop Dataran Muzium and Taman Tugu," he said, adding that the project would give the historic landmarks a new look and added value.

It would also preserve a green area in the city and boost tourism.

The projects to develop Dataran Muzium and Taman Tugu were announced by Khazanah last year, and are part of its domestic investment to support the government's proactive economic measures announced in September last year.

In a statement, Khazanah had said



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak getting a briefing on Khazanah Nasional Bhd's proposal to develop Dataran Muzium and Taman Tugu in Kuala Lumpur from Khazanah managing director Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar.

the company would lead a major not-for-profit Public-Private Partnership project to rejuvenate and reactivate Muzium Negara, which would be renamed Dataran Muzium, and convert a 26ha land adjacent Tugu Negara into a park.

"The project will cost an estimated RM1.1 billion, and will be funded mainly by Khazanah (RM730 million) on a not-for-profit basis, the Federal Government (RM220 million) and other government agencies and private sector parties (RM150 million)," it said.

The project will connect the landmarks via land bridges to KL Sentral

and the Lake Gardens, and to other Greater Kuala Lumpur initiatives, including the River of Life and KL Cultural and Heritage Trails.

"The project will generate potential incremental tourism revenue of RM400 million to RM800 million per annum for Kuala Lumpur, and increase the number of visitors and other revenue for Muzium Negara by 10 to 15 times."

Muzium Negara would be upgraded to be a 21st century cultural institution, which was positioned to be an integrated museum of civilisation centred on Malaysia.

"Khazanah has comprehensively

engaged all key stakeholders of the project, including the Economic Planning Unit, Public-Private Partnership Unit, Federal Territories Ministry, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Tourism and Culture Ministry, the Performance Management and Delivery Unit, Department of Museums Malaysia, National Heritage Department and private sector organisations," it said.

The Taman Tugu project is set to be completed by 2018 and Dataran Muzium in 2020. The two projects are among nine initiatives under Khazanah's domestic investments worth RM6.77 billion.