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KL on track to becoming world-class metropolis: Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: Kuala Lumpur is ranked ninth out of 100 leading cities globally in terms of international tourist arrivals in 2015.

In announcing Euromonitor International Ltd's report, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said Malaysia is well on its way to transforming the national capital into a world-class metropolis and achieving the high-income nation status by 2020.

"We are already on the way, as recognised by the international property group Knight Frank, which included KL on its 'Five Global Cities to Watch' list at the end of 2015.

"They said, and I quote: 'There will be renewed interest in the city - to live and work in and also as a destination for entertainment and tourism,'" he said during the launch of Project 8Kia Peng, here, yesterday.

Najib also pointed out a report by the Mercer Quality of Living Rankings last year which listed KL second out of all the cities in the whole of Southeast Asia.

"KL is fast becoming a true global city. These are exciting times for KL and Malaysia. I am

confident that KL will continue to attract global investors, businesses and visitors. And we will continue on our trajectory towards being a developed Malaysia by 2020," he said.

Earlier, at the launch of the Kami Anak Felda (KAF) organisation, the *Kesejahteraan Adiwangsa Felda* book, the Wada-Kemboja humanitarian mission fund and the Prihatin Jantung Anda programme, here, Najib said he wanted Felda to become an economic powerhouse that will continue to champion the plight of settlers for generations to come.

He said the desire of the government in setting up Felda was to not only champion the plight of the first-generation settlers but also the second and third generation and for another 100 years or more, reports Bernama.

"It is for this reason that we developed Felda, we established FGV (Felda Global Ventures Holdings Berhad), we have taken all kinds of measures to make Felda an economic powerhouse," he said.

Najib said Felda had also approved interest-free loans of RM1.41 billion for 41,429 settler families to repair their houses at a cost of RM40,000 per family.



MSM (Malaysia) Holdings Bhd CEO Datuk Sheikh Awab Sheikh Abod handing over a mock cheque for Wada-Cambodia humanitarian mission fund to Najib at the launch of KAF yesterday.