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Bilateral trade expected to surge

BEIJING: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak expects to see a surge in Chinese investments in Malaysia, saying businessmen from China have made great contributions to the national economy.

In the manufacturing sector, the Prime Minister said China was the second largest investor in the first eight months of this year, with Malaysia recording 20 approved manufacturing projects worth RM2.4bil from there.

“Our bilateral ties are at their highest level now. I am optimistic that business cooperation will also reach greater heights.

“We welcome the involvement of leading Chinese companies in a range of our flagship developments, institutions and projects.

“You have made a great contribution to our economy,” Najib told a roundtable of 35 Chinese captains of industry yesterday.

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“We are receptive to foreign direct investments. As government leaders, we want to build a robust, strong, dynamic partnership with countries.”

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak

Also present at the roundtable yesterday were Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting, the Prime Minister’s special envoy to China; and Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, International Trade and

Industry Minister.

Najib, in his opening remarks to corporate giants the likes of Alibaba Group, said: “We are a business-friendly government.

“We are receptive to foreign direct investments.

“As government leaders, we want to build a robust, strong, dynamic and comprehensive partnership with countries.”

He said that healthy political and business exchanges at the highest level had helped strengthen Sino-Malaysia economic and trade relations further.

Malaysia-China bilateral trade last year was close to US\$100bil (RM420bil).

In January-June this year, total trade with China increased by 2% compared with the same period in 2015, he said.