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Merc plant fuels Pekan's economy

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CATALYST: Warehouse facility has brought in FDI, opened up job opportunities

HIDIR REDUAN
PEKAN
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has praised the establishment of the RM32 million Bumiputera-owned automotive warehouse facility for Mercedes-Benz here as benefiting the people.

He said the facility had brought in foreign direct investments, which not only benefited Malaysians, but also led to more Bumiputera participation in the luxury car industry.

The facility, which is a collaboration between Nilai Mahir Sdn Bhd and Mercedes-Benz Malaysia, is part of efforts to increase Bumiput-

era involvement in business, while at the same time, helping all Malaysians.

Najib said the establishment of the facility had benefited locals here through increased job opportunities.

"If we had no competitive edge, Mercedes-Benz would not have relocated to Pekan," said Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament, when launching the facility at the Automotive Industrial Park here yesterday.

He said the success of DRB-Hicom, the anchor tenant in the in-

dustrial park, in attracting Mercedes-Benz here, showed how much Pekan had developed into a national automotive hub.

The warehouse facility, which was developed for storage of car components and parts, had received RM4.76 million of The Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit's (Teraju) Facilitation Fund.

Teraju is working with the East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery system to Bumiputera entrepreneurs here.

Present at the launch were state exco member Datuk Abu Bakar Harun, East Coast Economic Region (ECER) chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John, Teraju senior director of Entrepreneurship and Business Development Megat Mohd Yatim Megat Hamid, Mercedes-Benz Malaysia CEO Dr Claus Weidner and Pekan district officer Datuk Ali Syahbana Sabaruddin.

Also present was Al-Meiraj Mohd Ali, the CEO of Kumpulan Hamodal Sdn Bhd, with which Nilai Mahir is affiliated.