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# Khaled: Dr M won't succeed in scaring Johoreans

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**JOHOR BARU:** Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will not succeed in his efforts to intimidate Johoreans with regard to his statements on China nationals being given citizenship at the mammoth Forest City project.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said Dr Mahathir's allegations surrounding the US\$100bil (RM444bil) worth of investments for the project were not based on facts, but rather, to frighten the people of Johor.

"The total land size of the state is 1.8 million hectares while that of the Forest City project is 1.977ha, which is equivalent to only 0.108% of the entire land area of Johor.

"With only less than 1% of the area involved, it is impossible for the China mainlanders to occupy the state, and this shows Dr Mahathir is only making the accusation to scare Johoreans," he said in his speech before opening the Muafakat Johor Chinese New Year Bazaar 2017 here late on Sunday.

"Forest City is a state government-planned project while the investors are foreigners who happen to be from China.

"This is not a 100% foreign-owned project as locals have a 42% stake in it," he said.

He added that the project, which is expected to be completed in 30 years, is important to the state as it needs big projects to compete with Singapore.

Mohamed Khaled said Dr Mahathir is welcome to visit Forest City to prove his allegation of the 700,000 mainlanders occupying the state.