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Pudu Jail site to house world-class projects

KUALA LUMPUR: The historical Pudu Prison site here will be transformed into a world-class integrated development by 2020.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday kicked off the construction for the Bukit Bintang City Centre (BBCC) and Mitsui Shopping Park LaLaport KL (LaLaport KL), pushing the city's landmark a step closer to reality.

The colonial-era jail is undergoing changes to regenerate the site. Its masterplan spreads over 7.85ha with a total gross build-up area of 6.7 million sq ft.

IJM Construction Sdn Bhd is the design and construction contractor, while Studio Taku Shimizu Inc of Japan deals with the environmental design of LaLaport KL.

The development is an integral part of the government's Economic Transformation Plan (ETP) for Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley.

BBCC's masterplan aspires to bring back Bukit Bintang's heyday of culture, arts and live en-

tertainment, and merge them with modern offices, commercial and residential amenities.

In his keynote address, Najib said the project would uplift Kuala Lumpur's image as an international ultrapolis.

"With the scarcity of land in any developed capital city, like Kuala Lumpur, it is essential that redevelopment of city centre brownfield sites is done carefully.

"Besides expediting the completion of the LRT (Light Rail Transit) extension, the government has rapidly undertaken the construction of the MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) system.

"By the time BBCC opens its doors, an integrated network of KTM, LRT and MRT as well as the city centre monorail will transport commuters around the city, Greater Kuala Lumpur, Klang Valley and beyond," said Najib.

BBCC has a gross development of RM8.7 billion.

It will comprise a retail mall, a four-star hotel, an entertainment hub, serviced apartments, ho-

tels, strata offices and an 80-storey three-in-one signature tower housing corporate offices, a five-star hotel and luxury residences.

Najib said the project was another example of ETP bearing fruit in attracting foreign investments as companies grew and expanded.

"I am pleased that BBCC has attracted the participation of global players, like Mitsui Fudosan Co Ltd, the leading real estate group from Japan, to invest in what will be BBCC's RM1.6 billion retail mall.

"This year also marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relationships as well as strong trade and investment relations between Malaysia and Japan."

Last year, he said, Japan was ranked Malaysia's fourth largest trading partner with bilateral trade amounting to RM120 billion.

"We believe there is huge potential for our bilateral economic relations to prosper," he added.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak looking at a development model in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is BBCC Development Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Datuk Richard Ong (left). PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

Last October, BBCC signed an agreement with Mitsui Fudosan Asia to set up a joint venture MF-BBCC Retail Mall Sdn Bhd.

MFBBCC Retail will own and operate the estimated RM1.6 billion retail mall.

Mitsui Fudosan will own 50 per cent of the shares and the rest shared by UDA Holdings Bhd, Eco World Development Group Bhd and the Employees Provi-

dent Fund Board.

The retail mall will be the first LaLaport-branded shopping mall in Southeast Asia.

It will open in 2021 and will have 300 stores with net lettable area of 0.9 million sq ft.

BBCC has also initiated the unique concept of Malaysia Grand Bazaar, which is expected to be a tourist attraction with a Malaysian flavour.

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