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# 'RAIL' GOOD NEWS FOR KELANTAN

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Govt to extend track from Wakaf Baru to Pengkalan Kubor, says Najib

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday brought good news to the Kelantan people when he announced that the East Coast Rail Line (ECRL) would be extended from Wakaf Baru to Pengkalan Kubor.

He said the project, expected to be ready in 2022, would, among others, provide job opportunities and spur economic growth of between one and 1.5 per cent for the east coast states.

"If the economic growth increases, people in the states will have more job opportunities and would no longer have to travel to Singapore to find jobs.

"The additional project takes into consideration the people's requests as many have suffered problems when returning to their

hometowns for the Hari Raya celebrations.

"Their travel period will be shortened from 12 hours to four hours and this will also provide comfort to motorists," he said when opening the Kelantan Urban Transformation Centre (UTC) here.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and senior federal and state government officers.

Najib, who was on a working visit to Kelantan, said the new extension would be added to the present railway from Port Klang to Wakaf Baru.

"The (Federal) Government has carried out many successful projects, such as the Mass Rapid Transit and God-willing, this new project will become a reality, thanks to the cooperation from the state government," he said.

Later at a press conference, he said the cost for the construction of the additional 16km rail line had yet to be finalised.

On the new UTC, Najib said a total of 4.7 million visitors had been to the centre since the first UTC in Malacca was opened in 2012.

"We have received overwhelm-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak hitting the gong to open the Kelantan Urban Transformation Centre in Kota Baru yesterday. With him are Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob (second from left) and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed. PIC BY FATHIL ASRI

ing response from the public since UTC was opened in Malacca under the Government Transformation Programme."

He said the operations of 27 agencies at UTC and their daily service also made the centres the only government service

provider in the world to operate seven days a week.

Meanwhile, Ahmad thanked the prime minister for setting up the UTC in Kelantan, which was opened last October at a cost of RM37.8 million.

"We are very grateful for his

(Najib's) concern for Kelantan.

"Between its opening last year and February this year, RM33.5 million in transactions was recorded.

"The money is very significant and helpful for the state government," he said.