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TAMAN TUGU

# PARK TO BE PLACED UNDER PUBLIC TRUST

Govt has approved an additional 10.12ha of adjacent land for Taman Tugu project, says Najib

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**N**ATIONAL public trust Amanah Warisan Negara (Awan) will be the custodian of Taman Tugu.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who announced this yesterday, said the 26.7ha site in the heart of the capital city here would be placed under the trust in perpetuity, as an urban forest park.

Najib said the government had approved an additional 10.12ha of adjacent land to be allocated for

the Taman Tugu project, bringing the total land area to 36.8ha.

"Together with the nearby Perdana Botanical Garden, the total land area will be 133.9ha.

"This will make Taman Tugu comparable to Hyde Park in London and other green lungs in major first-world cities, such as New York City," he said during a tree-planting ceremony at Taman Tugu yesterday afternoon in conjunction with Hari Hasanah, an event by strategic investment fund Khazanah Nasional Bhd on Sept 3, to promote and foster unity and patriotism among Malaysians, in line with the Negeraku campaign.

Najib said the project was close to his heart as it was a Transformasi Nasional 2050 (TN50) project meant for the future generation.

He noted that from the many TN50 dialogues, one of the recurring themes was that people wanted a clean environment and to live in a liveable city.

"This project has the underlined support of Malaysians despite initial opposition by some.

"But, after Khazanah engaged them, they understood and supported the project," he said.

He said 1,000 species of trees would be planted amidst camping, running and hiking sites in the park, adding that the species would be chosen to reflect the nation's heritage.

"People will no longer have to go far to appreciate nature's diversity."

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