

PERLIS ECONOMIC GROWTH

'PERLIS INLAND PORT TO SPUR CROSS-BORDER TRADE'

Malaysia, Thailand target to achieve RM126 billion in bilateral trade by 2025, says PM

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THE development of Perlis Inland Port (PIP) will spur the growth of Malaysia-Thailand cross-border trade as both nations strive to achieve RM126 billion in bilateral trade by 2025.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said being located near the Malaysia-Thai border, Perlis was strategically positioned to reap the economic and trade benefits of cross-border

businesses between the neighbouring countries.

"Malaysia and Thailand have agreed to set a target to achieve RM126 billion in bilateral trade by 2025.

"Perlis is well positioned geographically near the Malaysia-Thai border and has the advantage to reap economic and business opportunities in cross-border trade.

"The development of PIP is timely to accelerate trade with Thailand and create added value to strategic projects in the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), namely the Chuping Valley Industrial Area (CVIA), Chuping Agro Valley, NCER Agribio Economic Zone and Perlis Super Fruits Valley," he said at the launch of PIP and bonded road in Chuping here yesterday.

Ismail Sabri also said the Malaysia-Thailand trade value had reached nearly RM100 bil-



Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail (fourth from right) looking at a replica of Perlis Inland Port after the project launch in Chuping yesterday. With him are Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanlcu Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail (third from right), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob (second from right) and Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azlan Man (right), PIC BY LUQMAN HAKIM ZUBIR

lion, with RM44 billion attributed to border trade activities.

Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail launched the RM1.2 billion PIP project in CVIA.

PIP is undertaken via a public-private partnership.

Present was Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail. Also present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Datuk Seri Zuki Ali, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azlan Man, Perlis State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Hamdan Bahari, Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) chief executive Mohammad Haris Kader Sultan and Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Shabaruddin Ibrahim.

Ismail Sabri said the government was committed to ensuring

the success of national high-impact strategic projects such as PIP and this was reflected by a RM340 million allocation for the project under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

The allocation is for the development of three supplementary infrastructures — a spur line, a flyover and a bonded road.

"This is the federal government's commitment to accelerate cross-region and cross-state development, as well as urban, rural and border development in achieving balanced and inclusive development in line with the 12th Malaysia Plan's master plan."

With the launch of PIP, he said, the CVIA was poised to transform Perlis and the NCER economy through investment growth and job creation, while reducing the migration of locals.

Ismail Sabri said CVIA had attracted RM4.5 billion in investments, which would create 12,000 jobs.

He said strategic high-impact projects such as PIP and CVIA were a boon to transform Perlis from an agriculture-based economy to a modern and industrialised one.

"As such, NCIA will continue to upgrade the integrated transportation link system with holistic transportation and logistics infrastructure, enabling PIP to enhance its appeal to potential investors."

Ismail Sabri said Perlis was on a post-pandemic economic growth trajectory with the trade value through the state recorded at RM7.9 billion between January and December last year compared with RM5.4 billion in 2020.