

# PM: Perlis Inland Port to boost NCER growth, Malaysia-Thai trade

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by AZREEN HANI

THE establishment of Perlis Inland Port (PIP) is timely to boost Malaysia trade with Thailand and create added value to eight strategic projects in the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER).

Prime Minister (PM) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob (*picture*) said PIP would add value to strategic projects in the region such as the Chuping Valley Industrial Area (CVIA), Chuping Agro Valley, NCER's Agribio Economic Zone and Perlis Super Fruits Valley.

"PIP reflects the momentum of growth and progress in Perlis's economy driven by the modern agricultural sector as well as smart and high value manufacturing,"



Ismail Sabri said in his speech during the launch of PIP yesterday.

"This will attract new investment with preparation complete logistics facilities and

affordable transportation costs for investors in CVIA," he added.

Following the launch of PIP, Ismail Sabri said CVIA is expected to transform Perlis and the NCER economy through increased investment and job creation, thus, reducing the number of emigrations among locals.

"Although newly launched, CVIA has managed to attract a committed investment of RM4.5 billion and is expected to generate nearly 12,000 jobs," he said further.

According to the PM, the current total trade between Malaysia and Thailand is worth US\$23 billion (RM96.83 billion), of which US\$10.5 billion was via cross-border trade.

"My first official visit to Thailand in February proved the commitment between both countries in enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields such as trade and investment, agriculture, education, and manpower.

"Malaysia and Thailand have also agreed to increase the value of trade (between both

countries) to US\$30 billion by 2025," he said.

The event was also graced by the Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail who was accompanied by the Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail.

Perlis Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Azlan Man and Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) CEO Mohammad Haris Kader Sultan were also present.

Ismail Sabri added that NCER is projected to post between 6.5% and 6.9% of the GDP in the 2022 recovery period.

In addition, he said the implementation of human capital programmes by NCIA have benefitted 67,935 Malaysian families from 30 districts in NCER from 2019 until 2021.

"Based on positive economic indicators and to ensure more Malaysian families in the region to get these benefits, the Perlis state government and NCER need to continue increasing its competitiveness in the post-Covid-19 era to attract more domestic and international investments," the PM said.