

Middle East Firms Show Keen Interest To Invest In Malaysia, Says Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- The government's strategy to focus on the Middle East region has paid off with more companies from that region showing interest to invest in Malaysia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said there was tremendous interest from the region and investors were asking for more projects.

"Actually, they're asking me for projects and they want to do it right away. Unfortunately, we are not ready yet," he told 450 participants in a question- and-answer session at the Khazanah Megatrends Forum 2011.

The prime minister was responding to a question on opportunities and potential of Middle East investments.

"So, I'm thinking of a very positive trend coming from that part of the world, looking at Malaysia and increasing their investment, even putting some of the surplus capital in the banking system here because they consider Malaysia as one of the safest country with the best prospects," he said.

On a question whether Malaysia can provide leadership guidance, especially with the vacuum of leaders globally in the wake of the Western crisis, Najib said: "It might be a tall order for us to provide global leadership but certainly we can in a way create ways of opportunities in this part of the world."

For Malaysia, it needs to increase internal efficiency and competitiveness so that things that are obstacles to becoming a more efficient economy and the government's ability to function and deliver can be removed.

Najib said there was vast opportunities that Malaysia can offer, especially with parts of its assets are still undervalued like properties, human capital and currency.

"These are the things that we stand to gain additional premium if we get our act together so that what exactly we are going to do is to ensure that we are well placed to take advantage of the uncertainties in other parts of the world so that they go towards Malaysia," he added.

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