

Najib: Malaysian firms must extend foothold in Qatar
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DOHA: Malaysian companies have made their presence felt in Qatar with projects worth US\$7bil (RM21bil), especially in the energy industry and infrastructure development.

Stating this, [Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak](#) said many Malaysian firms have won international bids to build government buildings, highways and also part of the Doha International Airport.

"During my meetings here, I highlighted that many Malaysian companies have the expertise to participate in Qatar's development programmes.

"Qatar has told us they are ready to welcome Malaysian companies with competitive offers," he said at the end of a two-day visit, his first to the Gulf state since becoming Prime Minister.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, urged Malaysian firms to strengthen their positions and increase their presence in Qatar.

He said this was in light of the massive infrastructure development projects in place, one of which being the *Heart of Doha* project comprising 100 buildings and sports complexes in preparation for the FIFA World Cup 2022 event, which Qatar would be hosting.

"The overall infrastructure development budget in Qatar will be in the range of US\$140bil (RM420bil)," said Najib.

The prime minister said both countries also discussed the possibility of joint-venture development programmes in third nations, especially in the Gulf region.

He said Petronas will also look into working with the Qatar Petroleum Company in the liquid natural gas industry and had also held discussions with Qatar-based Gulf Asian Petroleum on a US\$4bil (RM12bil) oil refinery in Teluk Ramunia, Johor.

The refinery is expected to be completed over the next three to four years.

Najib said Qatar Investment Authority, which signed an MoU with [1Malaysia Development Bhd](#), would pump in US\$5bil (RM15bil) to redevelop the RMAF base in Sungai Besi.



Malaysia's best: Najib explaining the credentials of people who were listed in a book on Malaysian businessmen, which was later given to the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Khaliffa Al-Thani (centre) during a meeting at Emiri Diwan yesterday. Looking on is Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad Jabr Al-Thani. — Bernama