

**PM announces 21 new projects**  
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**By MAZWIN NIK ANIS and LIZ LEE**

PETALING JAYA: The National Key Economic Areas (NKEAs) have registered 21 new projects that will boost the gross national income (GNI) by RM4.59bil by 2020.

The projects are worth RM20.46bil in committed investments and are expected to create 39,918 job opportunities.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said there had been much progress in the various transformation programmes, adding that the latest list of projects was evidence of the good work being done.

"The nation's economy grew by 5.1% last year despite global uncertainty, especially in the eurozone. In the first quarter of this year, we recorded gross domestic product of 4.7% which was above expectation.

"However, there is still a long way to go before we can say mission accomplished'. We need to move faster and concentrate fully on the nation's economic engine so that we can compete globally," he said at the Economic Transformation Programme's progress update.

The 21 projects are under the agriculture, business services, education, healthcare, wholesale and retail, electrical and electronics and Greater KL/Klang Valley NKEAs.

In the agriculture NKEA, three companies have committed to invest RM456.69mil, contributing some RM367.58mil in GNI and creating 2,539 jobs by 2020.

Seven companies have committed to invest RM2.4bil under the business services NKEA, which will contribute RM1.41bil to GNI and create 10,909 jobs.

Wholesale and retail NKEA, which will provide 16,363 jobs, has a committed investment of RM466.8mil from three companies with a GNI contribution of RM1.1bil.

RM107.14mil of investment from two companies will go into the healthcare NKEA, contributing some RM238.06mil to GNI and creating 3,735 jobs.

The Prime Minister said education remains a key engine of growth for the future with the Education NKEA having RM535.58mil in investments, with a GNI contribution of RM146.39mil and 660 new jobs.

Under the electrical and electronics NKEA, there is RM4bil in committed investment from Infineon and 1,000 jobs of which 400 will be for highly-skilled workers.

The Greater KL/Klang Valley NKEA will have a committed investment of RM12.5bil from GuocoLand (M) Bhd which will build Sepang International City. The investment is expected to generate RM1.34bil in GNI and 4,712 job opportunities.

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