

**Legoland Malaysia To Be Catalyst To Support Development In Johor - Najib
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NUSAJAYA, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- Legoland Malaysia will be a catalyst to the Iskandar Malaysia development, a project aimed to thrust economic growth and set a strong sustainable metropolis of international standing, to elevate the socio-economic status of Johor said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Speaking at the official opening of the Legoland theme park by the Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar here today, Najib said the opening of the theme park would provide new job opportunities as well as training programmes to develop skills of workers.

"By GOD's grace, we have reached another level through the efforts of all those involved. Today we can see the Iskandar Malaysia's growth as a leading economic growth region," he said.

Najib said what was important was to carry out development projects based on the principles and aspiration that can upgrade the value and stimulate high income economic growth.

Johor would directly benefit from such projects that are designed to also integrate benefits for the nation and the people to enjoy economic, social development and to boost job opportunities, business and quality of life.

"Such developments are the basis for the 1Malaysia concept of 'People First Performance Now. The opening of Legoland here is a dream come true for the people of Malaysia who had dreamt of enjoying a world class theme park abroad," he said.

"We need not go abroad to enjoy such a theme park because we have brought a world class theme park here to Iskandar Malaysia. We have proved that we too can build world class entertainment facilities for the people."

The government would like to urge LEGOLAND Malaysia, the sixth in the world and build at a cost of RM720 million, to open more job and business opportunities for locals to help raise their economic status.

Najib later announced that LEGOLAND Malaysia would give away RM500,000 worth of tickets (worth RM110 each) to schools and welfare homes in Johor and benefit 4,545 poor students from 15 schools and three welfare homes.

Sultan Ibrahim who opened the LEGOLAND Malaysia officially, presented the tickets to three students who represented the schools and homes.

Also present were Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

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