

**GLCs Play Pivotal Role As Catalyst To Spur Economic Growth, Says Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Government-linked companies (GLCs) play a pivotal role by serving as the catalyst to spur the nation's economic growth, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said on Wednesday.

He said since the Government-Linked Companies Transformation Programme was launched in May 2004, the GLCs have achieved significant progress in diverse economic fields with regard to performance.

"Through the GLCs, the nation can now afford to create 359,187 jobs, which contribute RM40 billion revenue via tax payment, train 12,757 graduates and spend RM315 million for training and human capital development," Najib, who is also Finance Minister, said when opening the UEM Group's 29-storey "Mercur UEM" corporate headquarters building here.

In tandem with the GLCs Transformation Programme, the prime minister said the GLCs played a pivotal in implementing government policies and initiatives besides generating the capacity and enriching knowledge in key sectors for nation-building.

In his speech, Najib praised UEM Group Bhd's achievements, saying the public-listed company has expanded operations in its core business such as highway construction, township and property development, engineering, construction and asset management amid the increasingly competitive global and foreign economic environment.

"According to the UEM Group, our country has world-class standard highways and now we are migrating to foreign countries such as India, Indonesia, Brunei and the Middle East.

"The UEM Group is also the main developer of Nusajaya (in Johor), the biggest integrated township development in Southeast Asia.

"The group also has an excellent track record in designing and building iconic mega infrastructure projects," he said.

Apart from operational excellence, Najib also urged the group to continue its initiatives to develop human resources, human capital and the environment.

Meanwhile, the RM262.7 million "Mercu UEM" building was completed in December 2008.

Present at the event were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, UEM Group Chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, Khazanah Nasional Bhd Managing Director Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar and UEM Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Izzaddin Idris.

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