

**Najib lauds Iskandar feat**  
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PUTRAJAYA: Iskandar Malaysia performed beyond expectations this year, having breached the RM100bil mark in total committed investments in the southern corridor development, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said Iskandar Malaysia registered strong performance from January to November this year, securing RM20.36bil in committed investments and pushing the corridor's overall committed investment value to over RM105bil.

Najib said this was largely due to the successful launch of tourism, education and retail projects in the area, such as Legoland Malaysia and the Educity development, which saw the setting up of several universities in the area and retail hubs such as Medini Lifestyle Retail Mall.

He also commended the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) which oversees development in Iskandar Malaysia for endorsing the Low Carbon Society blueprint that was drawn out at the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP18) in Doha last month.

"All these have reinforced investor value proposition of Iskandar Malaysia and would certainly spur the attraction for more investments into Malaysia," Najib said in a statement yesterday after a meeting with IRDA's members of authority.

Johor Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, who co-chaired the meeting with Najib, said Iskandar Malaysia's growth has, from 2006 to date, generated an estimated 154,000 jobs in the manufacturing and services sectors.

He added that safety and security in the corridor have registered marked improvements, with a 24% drop in street crime and 10% dip in the crime index as of October this year, compared to the same period in 2011.

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