

**Najib: Malaysia Has Gone From A Colony To Cornerstone Investor With Battersea
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From Siti Hawa Othman**

LONDON, July 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is a place of endless possibilities as it now has gone from being a colony to a cornerstone investor with the development of the Battersea Power Station project, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"Sixty years ago, few would have predicted that Malaysian money would bring Battersea to life," he said in his address at the groundbreaking ceremony of the iconic Battersea Power Station project, officiated together with British Prime Minister David Cameron on Thursday in southwest London.

Malaysia, he added, was one of the bright lights in the global economy with GDP growing by 6.9 per cent over the past four years.

In congratulating the Malaysian consortium for their part in Battersea's revival, he said their template for success would be repeated, not just in London, but around the world.

He said the development signalled how the relationship between both nations are changing.

"As one of London's innumerable foreign admirers, it gives me great pleasure to think that my country is helping preserve one of its most distinctive buildings.

"And it also gives me great hope for the future -- not just Malaysia, but for our relationship with the United Kingdom, and the world," he said.

Rather than being rivals, he said, East and West are stronger as partners for prosperity by committing to open up economies and societies and welcoming the best of what the world can offer.

The Battersea Power Station project showed what was possible when it was done together, he said.

He said Battersea, a monument to Britain's past -- as the birthplace of industry, and a beacon of modernity -- has lain silent for 30 years.

"When Battersea's towers first soared above the southern reaches of the Thames, they symbolised the hopes and strengths of Britain. Elegant of form and advanced in function, they were the mark of a confident nation, looking to the future. It is this same spirit that I recognise here today," he said.

He thanked Prime Minister Cameron for his warm welcome, and his commitment to Malaysia, saying that the British Prime Minister has done so much to strengthen ties between both nations.

His visit to Malaysia last year was very well received, putting right a period of benign neglect.

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