

**Najib Urges US MNCs To Make KL Their Regional Hub For Asia**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak has called United State (US)-based Fortune 500 and Forbes 2000 companies to make Kuala Lumpur their regional hub for Asia by expanding investments in the Southeast Asian nations.

In a statement Thursday, InvestKL said Najib was speaking at the InvestKL "In Conversation With The Prime Minister" in New York, ahead of President Obama's visit to Malaysia next month.

He said the US is one of Malaysia's largest foreign direct investors and fourth largest trading partner, with a long history of trade and friendship.

"Malaysia's strategic location and position as the leading economy within Asia and ASEAN, and the ongoing Economic Transformation Programme are the catalysts to elevate the nation to a developed country with a high-income economy by 2020.

"Our efforts to provide a business-friendly environment have been affirmed by the World Bank, which ranked Malaysia the 12th best place in the world to conduct business in its 'Ease of Doing Business 2013' report.

"Meanwhile, the IMD World Competitiveness Centre ranked Malaysia 15th in its World Competitiveness Scoreboard 2013. In 2012, we were placed 4th out of 59 economies in terms of business efficiency," he said.

The Prime Minister also commended InvestKL's efforts in encouraging global business leaders to set up a regional business, innovation and talent hub in the capital and strategically grow their businesses in Asia, to promote Greater KL.

Najib reiterated the government's commitment to pursuing pro-business, prudent and pragmatic policies that ensure local investment climate remains attractive to businesses and investors, while continuing to drive economic reform and liberalisation as well as leveraging multilateral agreements including the EAC, RCEP and TPPA for mutual trade benefit.

InvestKL is an investment agency that works with other ministries, entities and agencies to formulate attractive fiscal packages, and help corporations identify business opportunities, while strengthening their competitiveness regionally and globally.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer of InvestKL Zainal Amanshah said the agency would assist multi-national corporations with key management, finance and trading capabilities to run their regional operations.

"We would spare no effort to establish Greater KL as a regional hub for Asia.

"The legal and commercial infrastructure is also in place to encourage and commercialise ideas and innovation essential for continued business success, and for talent requirements, we have successful partnerships between organisations and institutes of higher learning to nurture industry-specific talents," he added.

Moreover, Zainal said, the returning talent program has contributed significantly by bringing back the skilled Malaysian diaspora to meet the country's need for highly-skilled local talent.

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