

**Najib to visit Penang for new push on development**  
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**Businessmen want 'third wave' of growth with PM's help to ease federal-state ties.**

GEORGE TOWN: Penang businessmen are eager to start a “third wave of economic growth” in the state with better relationships between federal and state authorities.

Rizal Faris Mohideen, chairman of the Penang joint chamber of commerce, was reported today to have offered the chamber’s help to be a bridge between the state and Federal governments, as a mediator and facilitator.

He said chamber representatives had met prime minister Najib Razak last month, and he had agreed to visit the state soon, according to the Star. Najib would also go on a food tour, the report said.

Rizal said the chamber had also written to Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, who had indicated that he would meet them later this month. Meetings were also being lined up with Cabinet ministers, he said.

At the meeting with Najib, “we had the chance to tell him that Penang is in danger of falling into a middle-income trap and needs a third wave of economic growth,” he was quoted as saying.

Najib had given his support for the chamber to act as a bridge to the federal government for “high-impact projects” in Penang; among these are expansion of the port and airport, and providing more affordable housing. Penang was not getting the full benefits of the 1Malaysia People’s Housing Scheme, he said.

“There are so many problems that Penang faces because state and Federal agencies cannot see eye to eye,” he was quoted as saying.

Rizal said the chamber’s third wave of development follows in train of the first wave in the colonial, followed by the reforms after the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu put aside their political differences.

The joint chamber of commerce is an umbrella body of businessmen: it comprises the Malay, Chinese, Indian and International Chambers of Commerce, SME Association, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, Penang Tourist Centre, Association of Banks, and Penang Real Estate and Housing Developers’ Association.

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