

**KL To Become More Attractive With Private Sector Contribution – Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 (Bernama) -- Private businesses could be a catalyst in making Kuala Lumpur an even more attractive place for people from around the world to live in, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said this is in line with the government's goals in making Greater Kuala Lumpur and Klang Valley truly outstanding.

"This could be achieved with excellent accommodation, education, infrastructure and medical care.

"This private sector contribution could increase tourist arrivals and stimulate the Malaysian property market by creating even greater awareness of the Malaysia My Second Home programme," Najib said when launching 8KiaPeng@KLCC, the high-end luxurious development project by I-Berhad here Monday.

Also present were I-Berhad Executive Chairman Tan Sri Lim Kim Hong and Deputy Chairman Datuk Eu Hong Chew.

Najib said the development of the Greater Kuala Lumpur area is one of the 12 National Key Economic Areas under the Economic Transformation Programme.

He stressed that the overall aim is to transform the capital and commercial hub of the country into a world-class metropolis that would boast the very best standards in every area, from business infrastructure to liveability.

"This is in line with our ambition for Malaysia to achieve high-income nation status by 2020.

"It was against this backdrop that the government initiated a number of Entry Point Projects (EPPs), such as the setting up of InvestKL to attract global companies, the development of the Mass Rapid Transport system, and the construction of truly remarkable and outstanding new buildings and spaces," he said.

In addition to these EPPs, Najib said the government has also initiated a number of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects, with the aim of improving basic infrastructure both within the Greater Kuala Lumpur area and nationwide.

"These PPPs include the development of the Malaysian Rubber Board land in Sungai Buloh, Bandar Malaysia at the Sungai Besi airport area, and Tun Razak Exchange in the heart of Kuala Lumpur," he said.

According to Najib, through these projects, Kuala Lumpur was included in the "Five Global Cities to Watch" list at the end of 2015 by international property group Knight Frank.

An Euromonitor report, also from 2015, ranked Kuala Lumpur ninth out of 100 leading cities globally in terms of international tourist arrivals, he said.

The prime minister said the government believes there is a very significant and important role for the private sector to play in Malaysia's development.

"The government will always be a provider to our people. But we should also work to be a facilitator, and an enabler, to the private sector," he said.

On another note, Najib said while Malaysia's fundamentals are strong, the government would continue to take all steps necessary to strengthen the nation's economic resilience and keep the country on an inclusive and sustainable path.

"We, in common with many -- if not most -- economies, face challenging times ahead. But we should not forget how far we have come, and I have every confidence that with new developments like these, Kuala Lumpur, and Malaysia, will continue to thrive," he added.

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