

SUCCESS STORIES

'GOVT DOESN'T SELL PROMISES, IT DELIVERS'

Govt fulfills what it says it will do when it comes to serving the people, says prime minister

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THE government does not sell hopes or promises to the people, but instead delivers on what it says it will do, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said the government, under the current administration, fulfilled what it said it would do when it came to serving the people.

"The government does not need to sell hopes and we do not need to sell promises. The government delivers.

"We are not promising (things), we are delivering. And, we will deliver much more because of many factors.

"Johor (in particular) will experience astounding development," Najib said when launching the Progressive Johor Expo at Dataran Mahkota in Kota Iskandar here yesterday.

Present were Menteri Besar

Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar and Johor State Secretary Datuk Azmi Rohani.

Najib said the exposition was held so that there was a platform to showcase success stories in Johor and what was in store for the future.

He said people would be able to see the policies, projects and developments being done by the state government.

"The expo will explain things in detail because some quarters are trying to confuse people. As Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said, some people are selling falsehoods, hopes and promises."

The nine-day showcase, which will end on Oct. 14, features 150 exhibitors comprising state government agencies, the private sector, representatives from 16 local authorities, as well as government-linked companies.

Half a million visitors are expected for the event.

Najib said Johor was set to become the new economic powerhouse in the country due to rapid development, adding that this would turn the state into the nerve centre for the country's economy.

"Johor's progress has been very vigorous to the point that I would describe Johor as the new economic



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak listening to a briefing by East Coast Economic Region corporate and strategic planning division general manager Datuk S. Ragu (second from right) at the Progressive Johor Expo in Iskandar Puteri yesterday. With him is Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin (second from left). PIX BY MOHD AZREN JAMALUDIN

powerhouse in the country.

"This is an acknowledgement of the rapid development in the state. The country's pulse of development will be in Johor."

Najib cited several factors that contributed to Johor's success, including the close cooperation between the federal and state governments.

He also acknowledged the efforts carried out under Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar, who greatly contributed to the state's development.

He said one of the state gov-

ernment's unique traits that led to its success was its policy to empower district officers and District Action Councils when it came to planning at the grassroots level.

He said all 10 districts were developed based on each of its niche sectors without relying on directives from the Federal Government.

"The Johor government is doing something different and unique by empowering district officers and District Action Councils in conducting planning that is not based on what is being done

by federal ministries.

"Planning, choosing themes, setting priorities and allocation of duties are conducted at the district level. Every district in Johor has its theme, direction and priorities. I congratulate the Johor government for empowering the districts in terms of development planning."

Khaled said Johor's success was due to the hard work, persistence, commitment and perseverance of Johor folk.

"Johor's success is a result of cooperation from many quarters

'BRT to become backbone of public transport in southern Johor'

ISKANDAR PUTERI: The newly launched Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Iskandar Malaysia is being developed at a cost of RM2.56 billion, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Spanning 51km with 39 stations, BRT is expected to be up and running in 2021. It will serve as the backbone of public transportation in southern Johor over the next 20 years.

Najib said the Federal Government was contributing RMI

billion to BRT's development, while the remaining was from a Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

"Under the concept of inclusivity and sustainability, the Federal Government, via the Iskandar Regional Development Authority and Johor government, will develop BRT as the backbone of public transport in the Iskandar Malaysia in the next two decades.

"BRT is a transit system with high-quality buses that will provide reliable, comfortable and

cost-effective services."

He said BRT would meet the public transport demands of the increasing population, economic growth and increased job opportunities in Iskandar Malaysia.

"I was told BRT will have elements of the Light Rail Transit or metro, which will make it quicker than regular buses.

"We will ensure that BRT is linked to the Rail Transit System (RTS), the High-Speed Rail (HSR) and intercity bus services.

"It will be a catalyst for Iskandar Malaysia to be more competitive globally and on a par with developed countries."

BRT was among four initiatives announced by Najib at the launch of the Progressive Johor Expo in Kota Iskandar here yesterday.

The other initiatives were the Johor Skills Development Master Plan, Johor Sustainability Policy and four People's Housing Programme (PPR) projects in Johor.

On PPR, Najib said the govern-

ment provided a subsidy of more than RM100,000 for every PPR unit, which had benefited the low- and medium-income groups.

He said the projects were in Bandar Tenggara, Masai, Ulu Tiram and Permas Jaya, involving 1,830 units costing RM360 million.

He said work on the projects would begin at the end of this year or early next year and be completed by 2020.

He said the Johor Skills Development Master Plan was part of

HSR, RTS mega projects to spur growth in Johor

ISKANDAR PUTERI: The Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail (HSR) and Rapid Transit System (RTS) mega rail projects are expected to spur Johor's growth to the next level.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the two projects, along with the Iskandar Malaysia economic region and Pengerang Integrated Petroleum Complex (PIPC), were contributing to Malaysia's goal of becoming an advanced high-income nation.

"The government is committed to developing the HSR project, which links Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, as well as RTS.

"Once the HSR and RTS are completed, they will take Johor's development to a higher level. The next level of growth will become a reality," Najib said when launching the Progressive Johor Expo in Kota Iskandar here yesterday.

Malaysia and Singapore signed an agreement on Dec 13 to build the HSR project, spanning 350km between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

The project costs between

RM50 billion and RM60 billion and will shorten travel time between the two capitals to 90 minutes. It is slated for completion in 2026.

The RTS project was announced by the Malaysian and Singaporean governments seven years ago to provide an alternative for 80,000 to 100,000 people who commute via the Causeway daily.

The rail link between Bukit Chagar, Johor Baru, to Woodlands, Singapore, is expected to be completed in 2024 and will handle up to 10,000 passengers an hour in each direction between its two terminus stations.

On PIPC, Najib lauded the state government for its commitment to implement the high-impact project.

"The project will transform Johor into a hub for oil and gas downstream industries. It will be a hub that adheres to sustainability policies and will be of international standard.

"This will bring Malaysia closer towards becoming an advanced high-income economy."

He said the first phase of PIPC was expected to be completed in



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak being briefed by Iskandar Regional Development Authority chief executive Datuk Ismail Ibrahim (front row, second from right) at the Progressive Johor Expo in Iskandar Puteri yesterday. With him are Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (left) and Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin (second from left).

2020, in time to boost the oil and gas industries.

"This involves investments totalling RM124 billion, which will create 4,600 jobs.

The project is also receiving a RM31 billion investment from the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco). This is testimony to its confidence in Malaysia and Johor.

"People in Pengerang will enjoy spillover benefits, including more and better roads and improved

electricity infrastructure."

He said another transformation in Johor's landscape was taking place in Iskandar Malaysia, which continued to attract interest from investors.

"The term transformation aptly describes what is happening in Johor as seen in the projects, developments and additional investments under the leadership of Irda (Iskandar Regional Development Authority) in southern Johor, which is widely known."

and not only due to the hard work of the state government and its staff," he said, urging Johoreans to defend these achievements, made possible by the state government.

"The expo is a platform for us to separate fact from falsehood, perception from reality, opinion from truth and hope from the future.

"What is shown during this expo are facts, and they explain what is happening in Johor.

"This includes how the state government will shape the future of Johor and its people.

"After seeing these results and achievements, I urge Johoreans to step forward and defend these achievements," said Khaled.

More people taking public transport

KUALA LUMPUR: Government initiatives and investment in public transportation since 2010 under the Urban Public Transport National Key Results Area have led to an increase in ridership.

The modal share of public transportation in the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley area in 2010 was only 10 per cent, Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) said.

"Guided by the National Land Public Transport Master Plan established in 2013, we had set ambitious goals to achieve a modal share target of 40 per cent for land public transport in urban areas by 2030.

"With concerted efforts, in 2015, the modal share grew to 20 per cent, marking significant progress," it said yesterday.

In 2015, it said, there was an urban rail fare review exercise as prices had not been revised for 19 years.

"The immediate impact was a decline of nine per cent in ridership in 2016. However, this normalised with a significant pick up of 12 per cent in ridership in 2017, from 570,021 to 638,605.

"These numbers do not include the MRT Line ridership," it said.

SPAD said a daily ridership of 101,024 was recorded upon the full opening of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line 1.

The Light Rail Transit (LRT) Kelana Jaya Line led the growth in ridership, with an increase of 26 per cent, or 271,250 daily ridership, this year compared with 215,855 in the same period last year, it said.

It said adding to this growth was the LRT Ampang Line, which recorded an increase of 14 per cent, which translated into 184,931 daily ridership this year.

SPAD said KTM Komuter services suffered a dip in ridership this year due to the Klang Valley Double Track (KVDT) rehabilitation project, which impacted the frequency of trains.

This reduced the average daily ridership by five per cent to 103,074 this year compared with 108,023 last year, it said.

"However, we expect ridership to stabilise and pick up once KVDT rehabilitation work, which covers the upgrading of tracks and signalling systems, is completed in 2019 to modernise the 42km KTM Komuter network," SPAD said.

It said KL Monorail also saw a downturn this year, with a re-

duction of 11 per cent compared with last year, bringing ridership to 53,337.

It said this was caused by the removal of five four-car trains due to safety concerns, resulting in reduced frequency.

"Prasarana is taking action to resolve this technical issue in stages."

It said commuting via public transport had become relatively cheaper than owning a car, especially if one factored in the cost of ownership of a vehicle, insurance, road tax, maintenance and other expenses, including parking, fuel, toll and unproductive hours spent in traffic.

"For example, a commuter can take an MRT feeder bus to the Sungai Buloh station for RM1 and take the MRT to Pasar Seni for RM3.70, then switch to an LRT ride to KLCC for RM2.10 at an affordable RM6.80 one way.

"This does not take into account the further reduction if you use the Touch 'n Go card and the 50 per cent concession rates for students, senior citizens and the disabled," it said.

"The Customer Satisfaction Index, an independent survey carried out by SPAD, indicated that

84 per cent of respondents were satisfied with urban public transport in 2016, an increase of 10 per cent from 2015."

SPAD said these findings showed that the government was on the right track in planning and implementing initiatives under the National Land Public Transport Master Plan.

"To continue to attract more riders by making transit more seamless, SPAD will soon launch the Journey Planner in quarter four of 2017 and implement the integrated ticketing system by 2019."

It said the success of the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley area in delivering public transport projects on time was testament to the forward planning process in place.

"Many high-impact projects are being delivered, and we are making big changes to people's lives from the position we were in 10 years ago.

"Moving forward, the government remains committed to ensure that our longer term plans to improve the bus network and increase the rail capacity on the existing lines progress well with projects such as LRT3, MRT2 and the upcoming MRT3."

the government's effort to develop skilled workers to meet the demand from investors.

He said the Johor Sustainability Policy was in line with the demands of youth who expressed their needs on the matter during Transformasi Nasional 2050 (TN50) roadshows.

"The younger generation wants Malaysia to achieve balance between material development and environmental conservation. They want sustainable development."