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Putrajaya pumps RM1b into Iskandar bus network



Najib listens to Pr1ma chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Mutalib Alias (second right) explain the housing plans as Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin (right) looks on. — Picture by Bernama

ISKANDAR PUTERI — The federal government will contribute RM1 billion towards the development of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) while the rest, amounting to RM1.56 billion, would be financed via a private public partnership.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the BRT project, under the concept of inclusiveness and sustainability, worth RM2.56 billion, would be developed by the federal government via Iskandar Regional Development authority (Irda) and the Johor state government.

"BRT will be the public transportation infrastructure backbone in the Iskandar Region Malaysia in the next two decades.

"BRT is a high quality bus-based transit system which will give a reliable, comfortable and cost effective service," he said when launching the 2017 Progressive Johor Expo at Kota Iskandar here yesterday.

Najib said BRT contained the same features as the Light Rail Transit or metro, which is faster compared to normal bus services.

He said it was expected to be operational in 2021 covering 90 per cent of Iskandar Malaysia with a 51 km route through 39 stations.

"It will be ensured that the development of the BRT system will have smooth links to the Rail Transit System (RTS), High Speed Rail, KTM Commuter and inter-town bus terminals.

"With the expectations of increase in populace and economic growth to simultaneously boost job opportunities, I am confident that BRT would become a catalyst to spur Iskandar Malaysia to a more competitive level globally on par with other developed nations," said the Prime Minister who is also Finance Minister.

BRT is one of four initiatives of the state government he launched yesterday.

Touching on the Johor Skills Development Master Plan, Najib said the plan would ensure that workers in the state were equipped with the right skills.

He said the aspiration of the state government to spur skills development based

on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Johor youths would be interpreted via the master plan.

"I am confident, the Johor TVET Master Plan is a good start and reference for a more comprehensive TVET Master Plan," he said.

On the four People's Housing Projects (PPR) which would be developed in the state, Najib said the government had provided quite a big subsidy, exceeding RM100,000 for every PPR unit.

Najib said the four PPR projects, namely, Ulu Tiram PPR, Masai PPR, Permas Jaya PPR and Bandar Tenggara PPR would involve the construction of 1,830 units of houses at a cost of RM360 million.

The project is expected to commence at the end of this year or early next year and be completed by 2020, he said.

"This is the federal government's commitment to Johor. So, let there be no anxiety from any quarter. The commitment will continue because of the high historical value of the state to our current struggle,"

he said.

He also said the cordial relations between the federal and state governments were among the factors for the amazing development achieved by Johor.

"Actually, there is no necessity to brief me because I already know about the very encouraging development achieved by Johor and I had in fact said that I consider Johor as a new economic powerhouse for Malaysia.

"This is a clear recognition that the growth rate and in fact the pulse of national growth is centred in Johor," he said.

He said the timing for organising the expo was most appropriate and would give clear and detailed information when certain groups were trying to confuse the people.

"Or as the Menteri Besar said (they claim) we try to sell falsehood, hopes and promises.

Actually, our government does not need to sell hopes and promises because we have implemented. We are not promising but we are actually delivering," said Najib.

— Bernama

Another 3,616 Pr1ma houses for Johor

ISKANDAR PUTERI — Perbadanan Perumahan Rakyat 1 Malaysia (Pr1ma) will embark on four new projects in Johor involving 3,616 houses, in addition to existing projects here, said its chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Mutalib Alias.

He said the projects will be built at Larkin Indah, Taman Pelangi Indah, Nusa Damai and Kota Tinggi.

Pr1ma Larkin Indah consists of 1,174 units of apartments and comes with common amenities such as clinic, gymnasium,

kindergarten, multipurpose hall, nursery, playground, shops and surau while the Pr1ma @ Kota Tinggi would see 625 landed houses while Taman Pelangi and Nusa Damai both are high rise apartments.

All projects are open for booking, he said in a statement here yesterday.

"In line with Pr1ma's commitment to deliver homes with lifestyle and community concepts for homebuyers from the middle-income group (M40), the availability of these projects would address the increasing

demand of fairly priced quality homes in the state," he said.

Abdul Mutalib also said their existing projects which are situated at Tebrau and Bandar Layangkasa in Pasir Gudang here had received good response from buyers. "The Pr1ma @ Tebrau recorded a take-up rate of 92% (or 1,181 units) while the Pr1ma @ Bandar Layangkasa has been fully taken up (475 units)," he added.

The six projects will have an estimated gross development value (GDV) of RM1.32

billion, Abdul Mutalib said.

As at the end of last month, Perbadanan Pr1ma had approved the development of 259,881 units of Pr1ma homes nationwide, of which 141,661 were under various stages of construction.

Close to 1.5 million Malaysians have registered for Pr1ma homes nationwide and as a result, a total of 11,944 units of Pr1ma homes have been sold to date, with an estimated gross development value of RM3 billion. — Bernama