

PM announces 9 new development, Entry Point Projects

KUALA LUMPUR: Tanjong Agas Supply Base & Marine Services Sdn Bhd will develop the Tanjong Agas Oil & Gas and Logistics Industrial Park as a one-stop centre.

This is to serve and support the region's enormous and rapidly growing upstream and downstream activities, and in line with efforts to transform Malaysia into a regional oil and gas hub.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said this includes oil and gas exploration, exploitation and production activities.

With an investment of RM3 billion between next year and 2012, Najib said the project is expected to contribute RM30 billion to the Gross National Income (GNI) of the country over 10 years and create 30,000 jobs by 2020.

He was announcing nine new development and Entry Point Projects (EPPs) of the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), here yesterday.

The Prime Minister said Tenaga Nasional Bhd will develop two new hydro power plants, the Ulu Jelai Hydroelectric plant in Pahang and the Hulu Terengganu Hydroelectric scheme (Terengganu), and a large coal plant in Perak.

"This substantial investment is vital to support our economy as it continues to grow. Increased capacity is essential to provide energy to businesses and the growing population of our country," he explained.

Najib said Tenaga will be investing approximately RM4 billion next year for the three projects.

He added that in addition to

the three new plants, Tenaga will also allocate funds for the reinforcement of the power transmission infrastructure, ensure supply reliability throughout the nation including among others, locations such as Salak South Mahkota Cheras, South Pantai and Puchong Perdana Olak Lampit in the Klang Valley.

He said the electronics and electrical sector is another vital industry for Malaysia's long-term economic growth.

In order to attract 157,000 new jobs in this sector over the next 10 years, Malaysia is actively developing projects that can create technical ecosystems that foster higher-value engineering skills.

Najib said Cisco Systems has invested in transferring its manufacturing process and skills for a wide range of projects to Malaysia.

In recognition of the investment, he said the Malaysia Investment Development Authority (MIDA) has approved a grant to be utilised for training purposes over the next three years.

With these funds, he added, Cisco will be equipping about 1,000 Malaysians with the skills necessary to work with the company's advanced technologies and applications.

To further cultivate and accelerate first-class highly skilled human capital and improve the commercialisation of academic research in Malaysia, Technology Park Malaysia (TPM) will lead the development of an Advanced Engineering, Science and Innovation Cluster, in collaboration with Universiti Tenaga Nasional and the Multi-

media University.

The investment for the total cluster is expected to be RM374 million over the next 10 years, with a projected GNI of RM636 million with 20,900 new-jobs created by 2020.

Najib also announced three new projects that will help Malaysia reach its goal of tripling tourism output by 2020.

The projects will focus on upgrading the hospitality services and offerings as well as enhancing business tourism competitiveness to draw higher returns from tourist visits.

In an effort to improve services offered to tourists, Najib said UCSI University is launching a new education cluster focused on hospitality and tourism to deliver a steady stream of highly qualified graduates, ready to be employed in the growing tourism industry of the country.

He said UCSI University, through its Faculty of Hospitality and Management, will invest in a five-star hotel in Sarawak and in an international convention centre and resort hotel in the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley.

"With a total investment of RM650 million, the faculty is one part of a new hospitality and tourism cluster that will generate RM618 million and 2,300 new jobs by 2020," he highlighted.

In addition, Najib said YTL Hotels, is refurbishing the Majestic Hotel on a 3.2 acre site in Kuala Lumpur.

He said with an investment of RM250 million, the complex will feature the original and fully restored Majestic Hotel, adjacent to an all-new

block.

He said the new luxury hotel will boast 320 rooms and suites, full service restaurants and 600 additional jobs will be created.

Najib said RM50 million has been made available for 2011 and 2012 to enhance Malaysia's competitiveness in the segment of business tourism via the Malaysia Conventional and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB).

This includes a support programme with a budget of RM25 million per year to provide financial and non-financial incentives, to help bids for international business events, expected to offer high economic value to the country.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education in conjunction with SEGI College, DiKA College, Taj International College, Institut Teknologi Info-Sains Mahir, MCS College, Institut Perkembangan Awal Kanak-Kanak, Kolej Uniti, Thames Technology, Iras Mewah and Institute Megatech will be conducting pre-school teacher training in 10 states.

Najib said this initiative is part of the government's plan to enhance pre-school education in the country, ensuring high quality standards for pre-school teachers and offering support to the welcomed, increased enrolment rate of children in pre-school.

He said the selection of the mentioned Private Tertiary Institutions (IPTs) and training centres was made recently, via competitive bidding.

The bidding was open to all training centres and IPTs at the value of RM11.4 million. - Bernama