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Iskandar Malaysia LCS Blueprint To Spur Interest Among Investors, Says Najib

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the newly launched Iskandar Malaysia Low Carbon Society (LCS) Blueprint will spur more interest among investors looking towards Malaysia as an investment destination.

Najib, who is also the Finance Minister, endorsed the launch of the LCS Blueprint at the 13th Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) Members of Authority (MoA) meeting at his office here.

"We believe this effort has reinforced the investor value proposition of Iskandar Malaysia and will certainly spur interest in and attract even more investments into Malaysia," he said in a statement after chairing the meeting here today.

The LCS Blueprint, launched at the 18th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 18) in Doha on Nov 30, outlines the implementation plan to reduce Iskandar Malaysia's carbon intensity emissions by 50 per cent as it reaches maturity in 2025.

The Blueprint is the result of a joint effort between Japan and Malaysia, and initiated in July last year.

The project, "Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for Asian Regions", was initiated by the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS).

This is in line with Malaysia's voluntary commitment to reduce the country's carbon intensity by up to 40 per cent by 2020 (based on 2005 levels) and the research project began with a pilot study of Iskandar Malaysia.

Meanwhile, IRDA Chief Executive, Datuk Ismail Ibrahim said the 12 actions outlined in the blueprint would begin to be implemented in the first quarter of next year.

He said some of the initial programmes launched, included the pilot project for a Low Carbon Village at Felda Taib Andak, the use of CASBEE tools to assess Iskandar Malaysia's regional environmental performance, and the launch of the Iskandar Malaysia Smart City Framework.

"We are in discussions with several Japanese companies with an intention and interest in conducting pilot projects relating to smart city concepts in Iskandar Malaysia.

"The launch of the LCS Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia is timely because many countries are now re-focusing their economic visions towards a green economy and low carbon green growth," he added.

He said IRDA intends to adopt a similar approach in the development of the Iskandar Malaysia region.

Ismail said he was pleased to note that Iskandar Malaysia's potentials continue being recognised at an international and global platform by successful and more developed countries such as Japan.

He hoped the blueprint would be a rallying call for all Malaysians as well as foreign friends and partners to play a proactive part in its implementation, to achieve a society that is low carbon, and a development region that is based on a green economy, alongside sustainable and green economic growth.

"IRDA's approach in the development of Iskandar Malaysia is through a green-focused agenda. The authority has made a commitment that a green and sustainable environment is the focus.

"We strongly believe that the astute management of natural resources is the most important aspect of sustainable development and sets the context within which all other factors, from land use proposals and development to social engineering, services provisions and economic prosperity, must be considered," Ismail said.

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