

## **Najib: Iskandar attracted investment of RM20.3Bil in 2012**

***'I am happy with the performance by Iskandar Region, especially to see some catalytic plans that have taken place, and some programs have been implemented in this year, including the tourism venue of Lego land.'* Najib said.**

(Putrajaya 11<sup>th</sup> Dec) Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak announced that The Iskandar Region in Johor has so far attracted RM20.36Bil of committed investments from January to November in 2012.

He highlighted that, until November 2012, the overall cumulated committed investments from various fields of investment in this region have totaled up to RM105Bil, out of this figure, 43% of the investments have been accomplished before November, mainly due to the rapid growth of the key area of property (including business, retails and industrial), manufacturing and public infrastructure.

Out of this cumulated committed investments, 64% is from domestic investments while 26% is from foreign investments.

### **Abdul Ghani: Johor Street Crime Rate reduced by 24%**

Due to the tremendous increment of investment in the Iskandar Malaysia (IM) Region, it stimulates the economy activities in Johor and enhances the demand for work force; from 2006 to 2012, the manufacturing sector and service industry have created 154,000 job opportunities.

Hence, the issues of safety and security within the region have been prioritized from the beginning. Comparing the crime rate of the same period to last October, the street's crime rate has reduced by 24% and the overall crime index also reduced by 10%, something that he proud of.

Meanwhile, the CEO of IRDA, Dato Ismail Ibrahim highlighted that, creativity, medical health, finance services and transportation will be the key *magnet* for investments for the years 2013 through 2015.

*The caption for the photo above:*

Najib (Sit, right), Abdul Ghani (Sit, left), with the management team of IRDA showing the '*Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia*' as approved and launched by the PM during the meeting.

Among those who attended the LCS Blueprint launching meeting were the Chair and CEO of Johan Holdings Berhad, Tan Sri Tan Kay Hock; the State Secretary of Johor, Dato' Haji Obet Bin Tawil, the Secretary General of Treasury, Dato' Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Bin Abdullah; Director General of Economy Planning Unit, Datuk Dr. Rahamat Bivi Yusoff; Managing Director of Khazanah Holdings Berhad, Tan Sri Dato' Azman bin Hj. Mokhtar and the Director General Of Public Private Partnership Unit under the Prime Minister's Department, Dato' Ahmad Husni bin Hussain.

The statistics in the table shows the cumulated committed investments for manufacturaing (32.2%), property (33.4%), government sector (7%), public infrastructure (9.1%), tourism (2%), petrochemical (5.4%), port and transportation (3.6%), creativity (0.4%), education (1.5%) and medical health (1.6%).

### **'The Low Carbon Soceity Blueprints': Expected to attract investments**

Najib highlighted that, the newly launched '*Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia*' is expected to 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 are convinced that this effort will strengthen the investment value of in this region, and continuously attract more investors to place their investments in this region", he added.

The blueprint was recently launched during the 18th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 18) in Doha on 30 of Nov 2012. The blueprint outlines the implementation plan to reduce 50% of the carbon emission by 2025 in Iskandar Malaysia.

### **12 Actions will be implemented next year**

Meanwhile, IRDA Chief Executive, Ismail Ibrahim said the 12 actions outlined in the blueprint would begin to be implemented in the first quarter of next year. The Blueprint is the result of a joint effort between Japan and Malaysia, and initiated in July last year.

He said some of the initial programmes launched, included the pilot project for a Low Carbon Village at Felda Taib Andak, and the launch of the Iskandar Malaysia Smart City Framework.

He said IRDA is in the discussions with several Japanese companies with an intention and interest in conducting pilot projects relating to smart city concepts in Iskandar Malaysia.

*Translated by Dr. Lee Chew Tin (some sentences are adopted directly from Online resource: Free Malaysia Today entitled: "PM launches LCS Blueprint to promote Iskandar" available online on December 11, 2012 due to highly similarity of both press release articles)*

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