

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Five Regional Cities and Economic Corridors To  
Propel National Transformation Agenda**

**Putrajaya, 21 June 2011** - Recognising the importance and potential of five regional cities and corridors to propel the economic growth of the country, transformation programmes will be formulated and implemented for five regional cities and economic corridors, namely Georgetown and the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER); Johor Bahru and Iskandar Malaysia, Kuantan and East Coast Economic Region (ECER); Kuching and Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE); and Kota Kinabalu and Sabah Development Corridor (SDC).

"The Regional Cities and Economic Corridors Transformation Programmes will build on the excellent work done to-date. It will take the development achieved to-date to the next level to build out regional and global hubs in their economic areas of specialization."

"At the same time, by adopting a cohesive approach to the progressive development of the five regional cities economic corridors, we will enjoy much stronger economic growth as a nation," said Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

"By coordinating execution and monitoring, our aim to achieve high-income nation status will not only be achievable and sustainable but will also be inclusive, enabling all Malaysians in all regions to enjoy a high quality of life. This is the very essence of the 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now concept," added the Prime Minister.

Labs to formulate detailed programmes for implementation will be jointly facilitated with the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU), and led by the respective corridor implementing authorities as follows:

- Georgetown and Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) for NCER,
- Johor Bahru and Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) for Iskandar Malaysia,
- Kuantan and East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) for ECER,
- Kuching and Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) for SCORE,
- Kota Kinabalu and Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA) for SDC.

During the Ninth Malaysia Plan, the Federal Government embarked on a number of initiatives to promote balanced regional development and accelerate growth in designated geographic areas.

The 10th Malaysia Plan built on the Ninth Malaysia Plan by prioritising and accelerating the development of urban conurbations focusing on five corridors, in addition to the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley development. Each corridor consists of high-density clusters with sectoral and geographical advantages.

“Clustering enables businesses to benefit from common resources, facilitate labour market matching and contributes to knowledge sharing” said Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department and Economic Planning Unit (EPU).

In an increasingly global and inter-connected economy, it is not just countries or states that compete with each other, but more so amongst cities. Vibrant, productive and livable cities function as critical pivots to enable the economic corridors to attract and retain talent as well as businesses.

The Regional Cities and Economic Corridors Transformation Programmes will not only examine current issues but also chart the future development of key secondary cities like Georgetown, Johor Bahru, Kuantan, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu. These secondary cities will complement the development of Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley, one of the 12 National Key Economic Areas under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP).

Initiatives and intentions announced previously, such as the Greater Penang Transformation Programme, will be integrated into the respective regional transformation programme.

Rather than starting from scratch, the Regional Cities and Economic Corridors Transformation Programmes will build on the existing programmes including the 10th Malaysia Plan, ETP, Government Transformation Programme as well as the respective regional economic corridors and state programmes. The labs are intended to align these initiatives, problem-solve the issues and develop detailed, three-year level implementation programmes, which are critical to ensuring effective execution and monitoring.

In describing how the labs will be run, Dato’ Sri Idris Jala, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department and Chief Executive Officer of PEMANDU said: “Labs provide a controlled environment for experimenting with new ways of working or doing business. A fundamental characteristic of the lab is its iterative buy-in of major stakeholders through formulation and syndication.

“Key members of the team will be identified jointly and the labs will provide an intense problem-solving environment within a dedicated physical and virtual workspace with supporting tools for the teams to work full time and arrive at big results fast.”

These labs will see active participation from both the public and private sectors, at the federal and state levels, with support, input and involvement from Khazanah Nasional.

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**About the Economic Transformation Programme**

The Economic Transformation Programme is a focused, inclusive and sustainable initiative that will transform Malaysia into a high-income nation by 2020. It is driven by 12 National Key Economic Areas (NKEAs): Oil, Gas and Energy; Palm Oil; Financial Services; Wholesale and Retail; Tourism; Business Services; Electrical and Electronics; Communications Content and Infrastructure; Healthcare; Education; Agriculture; and Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley.

131 entry point projects (EPPs) have been clearly outlined within these sectors to grow our economy. These Entry Point Projects (EPPs) within the National Key Economic Areas (NKEAs) will lead Malaysia towards achieving a high-income nation status with a per capita income of RM48,000 (USD15,000) and create more than 3.3 million new jobs by 2020, throughout the country.

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