

NEW STRAITS TIMES

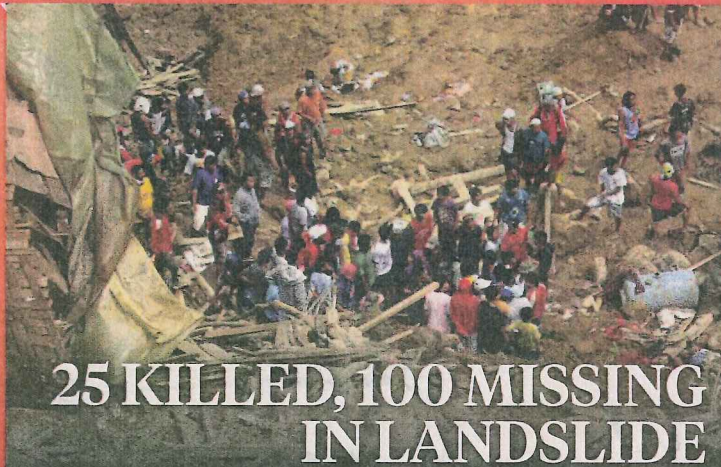


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PRIME PAGE 8

'NO' TO GATHERING OUTSIDE COURT

Police ask organisers to choose another venue



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NEW STRAITS TIMES
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Warmer ties with Singapore

NEW INITIATIVES: Undersea tunnel, power supply, aviation services, Iskandar promotion discussed

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MALAYSIA and Singapore are exploring a slew of cross-border initiatives, including the construction of an undersea tunnel linking Johor Baru and Singapore.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his Singapore counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, who met at the Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat here, also agreed to explore other areas for future collaboration, further warming economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Other initiatives are the alignment of radio frequency spectrum plans for digital broadcast and mobile broadband services, sale of electricity to Singapore, forming a work group on industrial cooperation to promote Iskandar Malaysia and Singapore, and cooperation in aviation and airport services between Johor's Senai International Airport and the republic's Changi International Airport.

The leaders also discussed cooperation in
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak greeting his Singapore counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, at the Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail

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'Vital to have links with Iskandar'

WIN-WIN FOR ALL:

Singapore PM says corridor will help it cope

PUTRAJAYA

IT is very much in Singapore's interests that Iskandar Malaysia prospers and succeeds, said Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong yesterday.

Praising the corridor, which was formed six years ago, Lee said it had done well in attracting investments and, therefore, it was important to develop linkages between Singapore and Iskandar Malaysia as it would benefit the two countries.

He said Iskandar Malaysia had a broad base of talent, facility and interest, which was self-sustaining and able to hold its own in a competitive world.

As such, he said, this could help Singapore overcome its shortages in terms of manpower and space of which were in "abundance" in Malaysia, when it came to manufacturing, a sector described as important in the republic.

He also said Iskandar Malaysia could provide the infrastructure and industrial facilities to take in projects, such as expansions that Singapore companies wanted to do or projects that want to come to Singapore but could not be accommodated there.

Benefits, he explained, would not be limited to industrial projects, but would see spin-offs in other areas, including employ-



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** and Singapore Prime Minister **Lee Hsien Loong** being briefed by Khazanah managing director **Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar** (left) on Iskandar Malaysia after a meeting at the Perdana Putra building in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail

ment-created residences, schools, hospitals and services and other indirect benefits for both countries.

"I proposed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak that we cooperate and twin more closely in terms of industrial and manufacturing projects, hence the

proposal that we set up an industrial cooperation work group under the joint ministerial committee," he said at a joint press conference after the Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat.

The two countries, he said, were also cooperating to encourage the private sector to participate and

invest in Iskandar because it was not just a government-to-government business.

"As long as the two countries have good relations and the atmospherics are good, I think the conditions are ripe for the private sector to proceed."

Najib, meanwhile, said the overall development in Iskandar was progressing and on schedule.

"We believe the current economic situation in both countries will continue at a level that will provide a basis for the private sectors to invest in Iskandar."