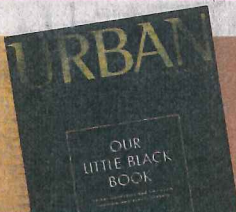


Looking good:
Who you
gonna call?

IN URBAN



FIRST OF 3-PART GUIDE

Singapore returns to
Malaysian soccer

SPORT, PAGES D1-3



stimes.com INTERACT: www.stomp.com.sg EMAIL: stomp@stomp.com.sg VIDEOS: www.razortv.com.sg NEWS TIPS: 1800-8282828



Mr Najib Razak and Mr Lee Hsien Loong in Putrajaya yesterday. The two prime ministers discussed ways Singapore and Malaysia can cooperate on the Iskandar project and the possibility of Singapore buying electricity from Malaysia, among other things. ST PHOTO: KEVIN LIM

KL, S'pore to expand links in Iskandar

Both sides to explore PM Lee's proposal for industrial cooperation

By LYDIA LIM
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

PUTRAJAYA: Singapore and Malaysia are poised to broaden the scope of their co-operation in Iskandar Malaysia with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's proposal to explore industrial cooperation.

Meeting here yesterday for a leaders' retreat, PM Lee and Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak agreed that a new work group be set up under the Joint

Ministerial Committee for Iskandar.

The work group will promote the "twinning of economic activities" between Singapore and Iskandar, a large development region in south Johor, the two countries said in a joint statement.

Building on the momentum of good ties, the two leaders also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in a range of areas, such as transport links, immigration, tourism and the environment.

They expressed satisfaction with the progress of Temasek Holdings and Khazanah Nasional Bhd's joint real estate developments in Singapore and Johor.

These are a \$11 billion project to develop six parcels of land in Marina South and the Ophir-Rochor area, and a RM3 billion (\$1.23 billion) iconic wellness project in Iskandar.

The projects are linked to a landmark land swap deal involving former Malaysian Railway land in Singapore. The broad outlines of that deal were first drawn up during Mr Lee and Datuk Seri Najib's retreat in Singapore in May 2010.

Yesterday, at a joint press conference that followed the prime ministers' four-eyes meeting and a delegation meeting involving some 20 Cabinet ministers from both sides, Mr Lee said: "We are happy with this progress because, first, it clears old agenda which has been outstanding for a long time; and second, it sets the basis for us to move forward and to develop our bilateral relationship."

CONTINUED
ON PAGE A6

Who earns \$1m in the private sector

By CAI HAOXIANG

THE \$1.1 million entry-grade benchmark salary for new ministers is not an easy sum to make in the private sector, but it is not that rare either.

Industry and human resource experts yesterday said the people who make that amount tend to be the senior executives in large companies or the chief executives of medium-sized ones.

There are also dozens of these top earners in professions like law and medicine.

In finance, the sum can be made by the head of a department at a bank, a trader, a top private banker or an investment banker.

A committee to review ministerial salaries unveiled on Wednesday its recommendation that pay for new ministers be pegged to the median income of the top 1,000 Singaporean earners, with a 40 per cent discount.

The reference point came up to \$1.1 million.

Commenting on his committee's recommendation, chairman Gerard Ee said: "I hope we are right that \$1.1 million is enough not to deter talented people (from entering politics)."

Mr David Ang, executive director of the Singapore Human Resources Institute, told The Straits Times that those who earn \$1 million or more cover a wide range.

"They are business owners, senior management, a good lawyer, partner at a law or accounting firm, your CFO (chief financial officer) of a mid-sized

CONTINUED
ON PAGE A8

DBS/POSB customers hit by unauthorised ATM withdrawals

By ROBIN CHAN

AT LEAST 200 DBS Bank and POSB customers have been hit by an ATM fraud that has seen some \$200,000 stolen from their accounts.

The stolen funds were withdrawn from ATMs in Malaysia, DBS said yesterday.

This was done possibly using "cloned" cards created by using data stolen at ATMs here, sources say, and is the largest such case of ATM fraud to hit DBS in recent years.

DBS is investigating the fraud, and said that as at 8pm yesterday, 200 cases had been reported by its customers, in-

volving an average loss of \$1,000 each.

Customers have a daily withdrawal limit of \$2,000 which can be raised to \$3,000.

Police confirmed they have "received several reports of unauthorised withdrawals being made from POSB and DBS bank accounts". Its white collar crime unit, the

Commercial Affairs Department, is investigating the matter.

They urged affected customers to report their cases to the police, with details of when and where the fraud occurred

CONTINUED
ON PAGE A4

FROM PAGE A1

S'pore 'open' to buying electricity from KL

Mr Lee stressed that it is very much in Singapore's interest that Iskandar Malaysia prospers. "Then we have a broad base of prosperity, vitality, activity and mutual interest," he said, one that is "self-sustaining and holds its own in a very competitive world."

Mr Najib said the "synergistic development" in Iskandar, with southern Johor serving as a hinterland for Singapore, has been shown to be "very workable".

"That concept has been given very strong support by the settlement of the POA as well as the commitment between the two governments that we should collaborate and work closely together so that we can push for mutually beneficial projects to be implemented on both sides of the Causeway," he said.

The Points of Agreement, or POA, was an agreement signed in 1990 on railway land which remained a bone of contention until its resolution recently.

On Singapore's proposal for industrial cooperation in Iskandar Malaysia, Mr Lee explained that while manufacturing is an important part of Singapore's economy, it faces constraints in space and manpower.

Both are in greater abundance in Iskandar Malaysia, Mr Lee observed.

If Iskandar can develop the infrastructure needed to take in part of the manufacturing projects which Singapore cannot fully accommodate, both countries can work together.

Johor will gain not just from the projects themselves but from the spin-offs in sectors such as logistics, in jobs created, in people moving to Iskandar and the schools, hospitals and other services that they will need.

In a joint statement, the two prime ministers also expressed satisfaction with the smooth handover of the waterworks under the 1961 Water Agreement by Singapore free of charge and in good working order to the Johor water authorities, following the expiry of the agreement last

August. The statement noted that both countries affirmed the terms of the 1962 Water Agreement, under which Singapore is given the full and exclusive right to draw up to 250 million gallons of water per day from the Johor River until 2061.

Both leaders commended the water authorities on both sides for their excellent working relationship and took note of the importance of implementing the necessary measures to ensure reliable water supply, as provided for under the 1962 Water Agreement.

In their meeting, the two leaders also discussed the possibility of Singapore buying electricity from Malaysia, an idea that was raised by Mr Najib.

Mr Lee said Singapore is open to importing a share of its electricity, if the terms are right.

It is in the process of drawing up a proper framework for electricity deals. Once that is ready, Singapore welcomes Malaysian companies to participate in bids to supply electricity to the Republic, Mr Lee said.

He also noted that companies involved in such supply must meet environmental impact standards as the burning of fossil fuels can have cross-border implications.

After the morning's meetings, the prime ministers and their delegations adjourned to Seri Perdana, Mr Najib's residence in Putrajaya, for lunch.

The meal ended with a feast of Malaysian fruit that included, of course, durian. lydia@sph.com.sg



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (second from right) serving food to Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at Seri Perdana, the Malaysian Prime Minister's official residence, yesterday. Looking on are director-general Ahmad Ishak (third from right) of the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama), and Fama corporate communications senior director Noor Azian Mustapa. ST PHOTOS: KEVIN LIM



Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Yacob Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for National Development Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Vivian Balakrishnan, and Transport Minister Lui Tuck Yew during a delegation meeting at Perdana Putra building in Putrajaya, Malaysia yesterday.



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak sharing a laugh over lunch at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya yesterday.



(From left) Malaysian Transport Minister Kong Cho Ha, Transport Minister Lui Tuck Yew, Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen, Khazanah Nasional managing director Azman Hj Mokhtar, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, Information, Communications and the Arts Minister Yacob Ibrahim, Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam, Environment and Water Resources Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, and National Development Minister Khaw Boon Wan viewing a model for a wellness project in Iskandar Malaysia at Perdana Putra building yesterday.

Progress in developing parcels in railway land swap

By LYDIA LIM

PUTRAJAYA: Temasek Holdings and Khazanah Nasional yesterday reported progress in their \$11 billion project to jointly develop six plots of land in Marina South and Ophir-Rochor.

The two investment companies are in discussions with banks to provide financing for the developments, they said in a joint statement yesterday.

Construction is expected to start next year and development to be completed over the next six years.

In the fourth quarter of last year, project managers UEM Land Holdings and CapitaLand submitted designs for provisional planning approval.

Yesterday, Temasek and Khazanah also exchanged Shareholders' Agreements at a ceremony in Putrajaya, which was witnessed by the Prime Ministers of Singapore and Malaysia.

The agreements are in relation to their joint investment companies M+S, which will develop the land parcels in Singapore, and Pulau Indah, which will develop projects in the Iskandar Malaysia development region in south Johor.

The boards of both companies have been constituted and comprise industry leaders, the statement said, without giving details.

M+S, which is 60 per cent owned by Khazanah and 40 per cent owned by Temasek, is developing the six parcels in Singapore following a landmark land swap deal involving former railway land.

At a joint press conference with his Singapore counterpart yesterday, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak smiled when he said the M+S projects are moving well. The value of the six land parcels in Singapore's business and financial district has increased "very significantly", he noted.

The two Prime Ministers were also briefed on the progress of the RM3 billion (\$912 million) iconic wellness project in Iskandar Malaysia. The two leaders were shown a model of the project and concept plans.

The project comprises a 2ha urban wellness project in Medini North, for which CapitaLand has been appointed project manager; and an 85ha resort wellness project, for which a subsidiary of Eastern & Oriental has been appointed project manager.

The urban wellness development comprises service apartments, a wellness centre and a corporate training centre. Construction is expected to start next year and to be completed over the next four years.

The resort wellness development comprises landed homes, land set aside for organic and fish farming, and a wellness centre. It will be developed in phases, with construction for the initial phase to start next year and be completed in five years.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said he and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong discussed the possibility of holding their next leaders' retreat at Iskandar Malaysia.

During the press conference, Mr Lee was asked about the progress of arbitration on whether Malaysia will have to pay Singapore a development charge on three parcels of former Malaysian Railway land.

The matter has been referred to the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

Mr Lee said both sides have settled on the arbitration agreement. "Once the two sides have signed, we can proceed," he added.