

news without borders

Giam Say Khoo at the Dewan Negara yesterday

IDR project yields RM33bil

THE Iskandar Development Region (IDR) project launched last year has attracted RM55 billion which is 70% of the estimated RM47 billion total investment required, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Amirsham Abdul Aziz said.

Replying to Hianze A Li, who asked for a breakdown of the total investment in all the economic regions and corridors, Amirsham said the Iskandar Regional Development Authority had successfully attracted 160 investors.

The performance of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCEER), East Coast Economic Region (ECEER), Sabah Development Corridor (SDC) and Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) is "promising".

SDC has attracted 54 investors and RM8.5 billion, and SCORE has attracted 51 investors and RM1.9 billion.

The total investment in the two corridors is higher if the investments pledged in the memorandums of understanding are taken into account - RM16.4 billion for SDC and RM110 billion for SCORE.

Amirsham said the number of investors

for NCEER and ECEER is still being collated but they have received RM57 billion and RM12.6 billion in investments, respectively.

To a supplementary question by Hianze, who asked if the corridors will affect investments in other parts of the country, Amirsham said each corridor has its own authority to promote and monitor the progress of its master plan.

"So I do not foresee it affecting the growth rate in terms of local and foreign investment attraction," he said.

Amirsham admitted that the current social and political scenario, such as the increase in prices of construction materials, is pressing but said the government has taken some measures, such as freeing or reducing the import tax on steel and cement, to ensure the infrastructure for the corridors can be implemented to attract more investments.

"I do not see that the current political scenario will slow down the investment rate. I have gone to Japan and received some views from investors there and they told me they will continue to invest in Malaysia because of the incentives," he said.

Safety belt for bus passengers too

NOT only cars but also newly-registered buses are now required to install seat belts, as stipulated under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) regulations.

Replying to Majlis Mahap, Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Anifah Aman said although the country had gazetted Regulation 80 of the UNECE in November last year, the regulation has yet to be enforced.

Currently, there are four buses when have voluntarily installed seat belts for their passengers because many foreign tourists (who are used to fastening seat belts even in buses) had questioned the safety of our buses and whether they have seat belts installed or not," Anifah said.

"The tourists are worried when there are no safety belts for them to buckle up. As a result, bus

operators had started to install seat belts."

To another question from Majlis, Anifah said the government has given a grace period of three years for old cars to install rear seat belts because it does not want to increase the burden of the people who are also facing increases in the prices of fuel and goods.

Anifah said the use of rear seat belts was imperative and the government was serious in implementing the decision as the Malaysia Institute of Road Safety Research had recorded about 350 deaths involving rear seat passengers in accidents last year.

Last week, Transport Minister Datuk Ong Tee Keat announced that rear seat passengers have until this year-end to buckle up as the decision will be enforced from next year.

their votes for the Opposition, said Deputy Higher Education Minister Dr Hou Kok Chong yesterday.

Senator Heng Seai Kei asked if the Act that used to trigger tension and conflicts between the university administration and students had caused students and voters not to support the BN.

Hou said based on the analysis, it was inaccurate to say that the Act was one of the factors which contributed to the poor performance by BN.

"The ministry did not stop the students from participating in constructive activities or join any organisations, except the illegal ones," he added.

Ex gratia for maligned judges can't be revealed yet

MINISTER in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Zaid Ibrahim told the House yesterday that the amount of ex gratia paid to six Supreme Court judges, will be revealed to the public only if there is no objection from their family.

"It was not that we who do not want to be transparent, but the families (of the judges) had requested that the amount of ex gratia not be revealed so that it will not become an issue of public debate," he told Datuk Musa Sheikh Fadzir, who had posed the question in his winding-up debate.

To Datuk Wira Syed Ali Syed Abbas Alhabshee's point that public funds spent must be made known to the public, Zaid said: "The government has no problem with that, but the wishes of the families have to be respected."

In April, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced goodwill ex gratia payments to the six judges and their surviving families as recognition of their contributions to the nation.

The judges were former Lord President Tun Salleh Abbas, Tan Sri Azmi Kamaruddin, Datuk George Seah, Tan Sri Wan Sulaiman Pawan Teh, Tan Sri Eusoffe Abduloolcafer and Tan Sri Wan Hamzah Mohamed Salleh.

There's inspiration aplenty on UNIQUELY SINGAPORE WEEKENDS.

Fabulous museums @ Buy 1, get 1 FREE*

This June, get set for enriching weekends with the Buy 1, Get 1 Free promotion into the Asian Civilisations Museum, Peranakan Museum, Singapore Art Museum and Singapore Philatelic Museum. So when you come with a friend, one of you gets in for free! Valid for Malaysian tourists only*.

Singapore Arts Street 2008
Clarke Quay, Central Fountain Square
14 & 15 June 2008, 11am - 6pm

It's simply Arts in the Street for the Man in the Street. FREE admission for all! Visit www.singaporeartsstreet.com for more.

Jetstar.com FREE seats available daily from Jetstar!

40 Free* seats and 20 one-way seats at RM8* daily up for grabs!
Book online at www.jetstar.com/specials/kl or call 03-8312 2268.

- Travel period: 23 May - 30 June 2008.
- Booking period: now - 9 June 2008..
- Fare excludes airport tax and fuel surcharge.

*Terms and conditions apply
For more information on special deals, log on to visitsingapore.com/weekends

Singapore Tourism Board (KL): Ground Floor, Menara Keck Seng, 203, Jalan Bukit Bintang, 55100 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 03-2167 7133 Fax: 03-2148 7133 Email: info@stb.org.my

Singapore Tourism Board (JB): Johor Bahru City Square, Level Two, 108, Jalan Wong Ah Fook, 80000 Johor Bahru. Tel: 07-222 3355 Fax: 07-222 2939 Email: information@stb.org.my

Information is correct at time of printing.

There's inspiration aplenty on UNIQUELY SINGAPORE WEEKENDS.

Singapore Arts Street

Singapore Arts Street 2008
Clarke Quay, Central Fountain Square
14 & 15 June 2008, 11am - 6pm

It's simply Arts in the Street for the Man in the Street. FREE admission for all! Visit www.singaporeartsstreet.com for more.

Jetstar.com FREE seats available daily from Jetstar!

40 Free* seats and 20 one-way seats at RM8* daily up for grabs!
Book online at www.jetstar.com/specials/kl or call 03-8312 2268.

- Travel period: 23 May - 30 June 2008.
- Booking period: now - 9 June 2008..
- Fare excludes airport tax and fuel surcharge.

*Terms and conditions apply
For more information on special deals, log on to visitsingapore.com/weekends

UNIQUELY Singapore WEEKENDS
visitsingapore.com/weekends

Singapore Tourism Board (KL): Ground Floor, Menara Keck Seng, 203, Jalan Bukit Bintang, 55100 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 03-2142 7133 Fax: 03-2148 7133 Email: info@stb.org.my

Singapore Tourism Board (JB): Johor Bahru City Square, Level Two, 108, Jalan Wong Ah Fook, 80000 Johor Bahru. Tel: 07-222 3355 Fax: 07-222 2939 Email: information@stb.org.my

Information is correct at time of printing.

The Sun
4 June 2008
Uniquely Singapore Weekends
8,051,000*
Mass
Malaysia

editorial
issue
section
readers
type
country

*Source: NRS

Singapore Arts Street would like to thank Singapore Tourism Board (KL) for promoting the event to the Malaysian tourists.

Singapore ArtsStreet™
MEDIA FEATURES