

PRESS RELEASE

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Medini Iskandar plans RM2.6bil Bursa listing

Proposed IPO to take place in H1 next year

KUALA LUMPUR: Medini Iskandar Malaysia Sdn Bhd, an urban township property developer, plans to list on the local stock exchange in the first half of 2014 in a deal that could raise up to US\$800mil (RM2.58bil), two sources familiar with the matter told *Reuters*.

The initial public offering (IPO) would see the company joining a handful of listed "master developers" in Asia, such as the Philippines' Ayala Corp and Japan's Mitsubishi Estate Co Ltd.

Those companies typically develop a region and have a number of property companies in their stable.

"Banks are pitching for the deal," said one of the sources, adding that the plan was still in a preliminary stage.

The sources declined to be named because the matter was private. A representative at Medini Iskandar was not immediately available to comment.

Medini Iskandar, which counts state-owned Iskandar Investment Bhd, Dubai's United World Infrastructure and Japan's Mitsui & Co Ltd as shareholders, is the developer for 903 ha of land earmarked as Malaysia's largest single urban development to date in Iskandar, Johor.

The site, which will be developed into an urban township consisting of luxury condo-

miniums, hotels, hospitals and education centres, has an expected gross development value of more than RM68bil over the 20-year development plan, according to Medini's website.

Khazanah Nasional Bhd holds a 60% equity stake in Iskandar Investment, while the Employees Provident Fund and Kumpulan Prasarana Rakyat Johor Bhd each own 20%.

Malaysia has seen a pick-up in IPOs and secondary share offerings after a lull amid political uncertainty ahead of a general election in May.

Long-haul carrier AirAsia X Bhd raised US\$310mil (about RM1bil) in an IPO earlier this month.

Westports Malaysia Sdn Bhd, operator of the country's busiest port, is expected to list in October this year in a deal that will raise up to US\$500mil (RM1.61bil).

But 2013 has not been all smooth sailing for the Malaysian IPO market, which was the biggest in Asia-Pacific excluding Japan last year.

Construction and power firm MMC Corp Bhd announced in May that it was postponing the US\$1bil (RM3.22bil) share listing of its Malakoff power arm until the first half of 2014, citing delays caused by maintenance work.

That would have been the country's largest IPO this year. — Reuters