MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA STATEMENT

FAST-TRACK INVESTMENT INCENTIVES AND STRATEGIC FUNDING TO ENHANCE THE JOHOR-SINGAPORE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (JS-SEZ)

The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) today announced **new strategic measures designed to accelerate development and investment within the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ), enhancing its regional competitiveness and positioning as a 'regional growth engine' that fortifies ASEAN's resilience against global trade challenges, including reciprocal tariff issues.**

The announcement was made by the **Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Aziz,** during the 2nd JS-SEZ Joint Investment Forum, this time hosted by Singapore's Ministry of Trade & Industry, in Singapore. The Forum was also graced by **His Excellency Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade & Industry Singapore,** and **YAB Dato' Onn Hafiz Ghazi, the Menteri Besar of Johor.** Other dignitaries include YBhg. Dato' Nor Azmie Diron, the Secretary General, Ministry of Economy Malaysia, His Excellency Dato' Indera Dr. Azfar Mohamad Mustafar, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore and Mr. Lee Chuan Teck, Chairman, Enterprise Singapore**.**

Tengku Zafrul today shared MITI's streamlined approval process to attract high-impact, high-technology investments to the JS-SEZ. This includes the **Fast-Track Manufacturing Licence (ML)** where all manufacturing projects for non-sensitive industries within the JS-SEZ's identified economic sectors will receive **ML approval within seven (7) working days**. Related to this, the **Johor State Government's No Objection Letter (NOL)** will also be processed and issued within the **same seven-day timeframe**, providing enhanced regulatory certainty.

In terms of **financing,** Tengku Zafrul also announced that under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030), the **Strategic Co-Investment Fund (CoSIF) will be leveraged as a key financing instrument for industrial growth** in the Zone. With **Budget 2026's additional RM200-million allocation to CoSIF, funding can be made available for co-investments in high-impact projects by Malaysian SMEs in the JS-SEZ,** with a **new, improved matching/risk-sharing ratio and financing rate** that encourages better investment leverage. CoSIF is also aimed at **enabling SMEs to scale up and go global,** particularly in areas such as **capacity expansion, tech adoption, and sustainability.** Furthermore, MITI will look into **repackaging the Malaysia-Singapore Business Development Fund (MSBDF),** to **align the Fund's scope with the identified economic sectors of the JS-SEZ.** All these will enable more SMEs – particularly those looking to expand regionally – to benefit from joint business development opportunities.

On **talent,** MITI will begin working closely with the Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR), to support talent development aligned with NIMP 2030, particularly in sectors such as **AI, EVs and semiconductors,** all of which also support the JS-SEZ's industrial ambitions. As for **enhancing the investor's journey,** under the Investor Pass initiative led by MIDA, eligible foreign investors can now enjoy a **Multiple Entry Visa (MEV) valid for up to 12 months** via the Xpats Gateway platform, launched in April 2025, and open to new, existing, and potential investors across all sectors. Additionally, MIDA is also **proactively offering the Investor Pass directly to eligible multinational companies and prospective investors** in **high-value sectors, including E&E,** and those **qualifying under the Family Office incentive** approved by the Securities Commission of Malaysia.

YB Senator Tengku Zafrul stated, " The JS-SEZ exemplifies how **bilateral complementarities can be harnessed for shared prosperity and regional resilience.** By aligning strengths across borders—**Malaysia's industrial depth with Singapore's global connectivity**—we're building a win-win platform for **innovation, investment, and inclusive growth**. This is not just economic cooperation; it's a blueprint for future-ready integration within ASEAN."

MITI will continue to work closely with the MTI on easing the investor's journey to ensure the success of the JS-SEZ.

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About MITI: MITI is the primary driver in positioning Malaysia as a preferred destination for quality investment and enhancing the nation's global trade competitiveness. Its objectives and roles are geared towards ensuring robust economic development and helping Malaysia achieve its goal of becoming a high-income and developed nation.