



**MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

TALKING POINTS FOR

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MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

FOR

**2ND JOHOR-SINGAPORE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE
JOINT INVESTMENT FORUM**

**14 OCTOBER 2025
SANDS EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTRE
SINGAPORE**

WELCOMING REMARK

His Excellency Gan Kim Yong

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore

YAB Dato' Onn Hafiz Ghazi

Menteri Besar of Johor

YBhg. Dato' Nor Azmie Diron

Secretary General, Ministry of Economy Malaysia

His Excellency Dato' Indera Dr. Azfar Mohamad Mustafar

High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore

Mr. Lee Chuan Teck

Chairman, Enterprise Singapore

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon and Salam Malaysia MADANI.

1. It is a pleasure to be here in Singapore for the second **Johor–Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) Joint Investment Forum**. This is a timely opportunity to reconnect and renew our shared commitment to this transformative cross-border initiative.

2. Building on the success of our inaugural forum on **21 April 2025 in Johor**, today's gathering not only reflects continuity, but also signals growing momentum. It sends a clear message: **Malaysia and Singapore are deeply committed** to turning the JS-SEZ from vision to reality, one that delivers tangible, lasting value to our economies and beyond.
3. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: the JS-SEZ is both **timely and strategic**. Under the current global geoeconomic pressures, **it is both an opportunity and a necessity**.
4. By aligning **Johor's industrial strength and resource potential** with **Singapore's global connectivity and innovation ecosystem**, we are not just strengthening our cross-border partnership, we are building a growth engine of resilience that is **greater than the sum of its parts**.
5. Indeed, the JS-SEZ is **not just a bilateral initiative** between two neighbours. It is a **regional value proposition**. It speaks directly to **ASEAN's aspirations** for deeper market integration, shared prosperity, and sustainable development. It challenges us to **reimagine borders**, not as barriers but as **bridges to opportunity**.
6. In an **increasingly complex global trading environment** – made more complex by the reciprocal tariff issue – the **JS-SEZ is one of the most compelling propositions for ASEAN** to mitigate external shocks, diversify supply chains, and enhance intra-regional connectivity.

7. By building a **more integrated, agile, and investor-friendly zone**, we are positioning the JS-SEZ as both a **manufacturing and services hub** for businesses to navigate geopolitical uncertainties, while maintaining their global competitiveness.
8. So, let us be **bolder in our thinking, ambitious in our vision**, and **collaborative in our execution**. The JS-SEZ must set a **new benchmark** not just in how we do business, but in how we **design future-ready, people-centric, innovation-driven economic zones**.
9. Malaysia, through the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), together with MTI, are committed to ensure the JS-SEZ is shaped by **clarity, efficiency**, and above all, **purpose**.
10. But **ultimately, the energy and success of the JS-SEZ lie with you** – industry leaders, investors, government partners, ecosystem enablers. Your ideas, feedback, and investments will determine how far this vision can go.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Just last week, at the Asia Future Summit, I did mention that there would be **more good news for investments in this Special Economic Zone**. And today, I am happy to share these fresh announcements, which we believe would bolster investor momentum for the JZ-SEZ.

Financing

12. **First, on financing.** To further support the development of the JS-SEZ, I am pleased to announce that, under the platform of 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.
13. Under **Budget 2026**, an **additional RM200 million** has been **allocated to CoSIF**. This funding enables **co-investments in high-impact projects by Malaysian SMEs** in the JS-SEZ, particularly those that contribute to strengthening the cross-border industrial ecosystem between Johor and Singapore.
14. I am also happy to add that **the CoSIF has a new matching/ risk-sharing ratio and financing rate** that we believe will attract greater private sector participation. This encourages **better investment leverage** in projects aligned with the NIMP's industrial transformation goals.
15. **CoSIF** is also aimed at **enabling SMEs to scale up and go global**, particularly in areas such as capacity expansion, tech adoption, and sustainability. This financing effort will complement the policy and infrastructure incentives being introduced under the JS-SEZ, ensuring a more holistic enabling framework.
16. Additionally, I am also pleased to share that the Government of Malaysia is exploring efforts to **enhance the Malaysia-Singapore Business Development Fund (MSBDF)**. While the Fund has supported valuable initiatives since its inception, **we recognise the**

need to repackage and position the MSBDF more strategically by aligning the Fund's scope with the priorities of the JS-SEZ.

17. This will enable more SMEs – particularly those looking to expand regionally – to benefit from joint business development opportunities.
18. Our aim is to facilitate **collaborations, joint ventures, and tech exchange** between **Malaysian and Singaporean enterprises**, anchored within the Zone's framework. We look forward to engaging with our Singapore counterparts to explore how this mechanism can be better leveraged moving forward.

Talent Development

19. **Second, on talent.** We recognise that the JS-SEZ needs a **robust pipeline of a future-ready, high-skilled workforce**. To this end, I am pleased to announce that **under Budget 2026**, the Malaysian Government has allocated **RM650 million through the Skills Development Fund Corporation (PTPK)** to support **talent development for target sectors** under the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP 2030).
20. This initiative is **expected to benefit roughly 25,000 trainees**, particularly in sectors such as **AI, EVs and semiconductors**, all of which also support the Zone's industrial ambitions. A portion of this funding **could be** channelled towards **talent development initiatives** for the JS-SEZ. MITI will soon start working closely with the **Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR)**, the **Johor Talent Development Council (JTDC)** and other relevant agencies to tailor

programmes that match industry needs and prepare our talent for cross-border, innovation-driven opportunities.

Enhancing Investors' Journey

(a) Investor Pass

21. **Third, easing the investors' journey.** To further strengthen Malaysia's value proposition as an investor-friendly destination including for the JS-SEZ, I am happy to share that **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 this year.
22. This initiative is **open to new, existing, and potential investors across all sectors**. It is designed to facilitate investors' travel and engagement, particularly during project planning or site visits. Additionally, **MIDA can also proactively offer the Investor Pass directly to 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.
23. This reflects our commitment to reducing friction for high-impact investors, including those looking to anchor strategic investments within the JS-SEZ.

(b) Fast Track Manufacturing License

24. **Four, on fast-track manufacturing licence.** To accelerate high-impact investments in the JS-SEZ, I am pleased to announce that **all manufacturing projects for non-sensitive industries** within the Zone's **identified economic sectors** will be granted **fast-track approval of the Manufacturing Licence (ML) within just seven (7) working days**. In addition, the required '**No Objection Letter**' (NOL) from the **Johor State Government** (for ML issuance), will also be issued **within seven (7) working days**.
25. Furthermore, such **qualifying projects will automatically receive Johor Super Lane facilitation**, ensuring coordinated priority handling across State and Federal agencies under a single facilitation channel. This mechanism underscores Malaysia's shared commitment via **Invest Malaysia Facilitation Centre-Johor** to provide investors with **certainty, speed, and seamless facilitation** under the JS-SEZ framework.

Conclusion

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

26. The JS-SEZ is more than a new economic zone. It is a **testament to strategic foresight and regional resilience** in an increasingly uncertain global landscape. Its industrial diversity, from advanced manufacturing to the digital economy, from logistics to green growth, provides a **strong buffer** against volatility.

27. Its ability to attract major investments in AI, clean tech, and data infrastructure ensures that it is **not reliant on any single sector**, but built on a **robust, broad-based industrial foundation**. Together, these factors will not only boost local economies, but will also cement **Malaysia and Singapore's roles as strategic anchors in Southeast Asia's economic future**.
28. By combining **Singapore's global reach** with **Johor's industrial muscle**, and harmonizing regulations through **shared governance**, we make the JS-SEZ not just **relevant to investors today**, but **resilient for their tomorrows**.
29. Together, as we **transform aspiration and into action**, we also breathe life into **an unprecedented vision of Malaysia-Singapore collaboration**, to make us **an unstoppable force within ASEAN**.
30. Thank you, and I wish everyone a productive and impactful forum.