

# KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 11 JULAI 2024  
AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES  
MUKA SURAT : 2 – BUSINESS TIMES

## JS-SEZ Agreement May Be Finalised in September

# JS-SEZ AGREEMENT MAY BE FINALISED IN SEPTEMBER

Fiscal incentive package may be announced in 2025 Budget, says Rafizi

DIYANA ISAMUDIN  
KUALA LUMPUR  
bt@nst.com.my

**T**HE government is upbeat about finalising the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) agreement by September, Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said.

He said negotiations with Singapore on the full-fledged agreement is in the final stage.

“Once the agreement is signed, we hope we will be able to get early takers for the JS-SEZ.

“We are confident, looking at the interest expressed so far, that the JS-SEZ will be the launchpad for the Asean market for investors in the next five to 10 years,” he said at the JS-SEZ Investment Forum here yesterday.

Rafizi added that the fiscal incentive package for the initiative



*Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli (right) speaking at the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone Investment Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi. PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN*

may be announced in the upcoming 2025 Budget.

“The engagements, workshops, and feedback are now being incorporated. The final stage is between the various ministries and Johor (government) to put together a specific package. Most probably it can be announced in the budget speech.”

Rafizi said Asean will not only be an influential market, but is also

likely to even overtake Europe.

He added that the value proposition of the JS-SEZ has to be private-driven because investment decisions are mostly done by venture capital and private equity partners who backed the potential companies.

“The kind of companies that we want to encourage to come and build the ecosystem in JS-SEZ are the high-tech and high-value in-

dustries which we are lacking.”

In the forum, Rafizi and Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi engaged with stakeholders, comprising potential investors, chambers and banks, who shared their opinions on the SEZ.

Malaysia and Singapore signed a memorandum of understanding last January to work on the JS-SEZ to strengthen economic connectivity between Johor and Singapore.