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[JS-SEZ] 20/05/2025 : New Straits Times (ms 5) Johor confident FDI will be exceed RM50b in the first half

'INVESTMENT MAGNET'

Johor confident FDI will exceed RM50b in first half

KUALA LUMPUR: The Johor government is confident foreign direct investments (FDI) in the state in the first half of the year can exceed RM50 billion.

Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi credited this positive outlook to the rising prominence of the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ), which he described as a major catalyst for investment inflows and economic transformation in the state.

"The JS-SEZ is not just a concept on paper, but has proven to be a convincing investment magnet. Investor confidence in Johor's future continues to strengthen," He said Johor recorded approved investments totalling RM27.4 billion in the first quarter of the year, equivalent to what was achieved in the first nine months of the previous year.

He said RM23 billion in potential investments were expected to be finalised by the end of this quarter.

"If this momentum continues, I believe Johor can achieve between RM50 billion and RM60 billion in investments this year, placing the state among the top three investment destinations in the country," he said during the JS-SEZ Strategic Partners' Dialogue: Advancing Facilitation yesterday.

"I'm confident Johor can rival the Klang Valley in the next decade."

He said attracting investments went beyond opportunities, relying heavily on an efficient and strategic facilitation system.

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DATUK ONN HAFIZ GHAZI
Johor menteri besar

"To this end, the state government, in collaboration with the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry and related agencies, launched the Johor Malaysia Investment Facilitation Centre (IMFC-J) in February.

"This pioneering initiative serves as a one-stop centre jointly managed by the Iskandar Regional Development Authority, Invest Johor and Malaysian Investment Development Authority to expedite investment processes in the JS-SEZ."

IMFC-J has received more than 300 investor enquiries, including about 100 on the Forest City Special Financial Zone.

Onn Hafiz said IMFC-J had facilitated five major investment projects worth RM16.5 billion, with the approval process streamlined from three months to one to 35 days.

"Negotiations are underway with 47 investors from Singapore, China and South Korea, involving potential investments worth RM40.1 billion."

"IMFC-J is not just about attracting interest, but ensuring that this interest materialises into actual investments. And that is precisely what we are achieving now."