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PETALING JAYA: The Johor–Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) recorded RM37.1 billion in approved investments in the first half of 2025, representing 66% of Johor's total investments and secured an additional RM29 billion in new investment commitments, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the federal government's continuous efforts to develop the JS-SEZ had strengthened investor confidence in Johor as Malaysia's strategic southern gateway, paving the way for deeper regional economic collaboration.

"Malaysia is positioning itself as a cross-border economic powerhouse by leveraging its strategic location and enhancing regional connectivity through border development and infrastructure integration," he said when tabling Budget 2026 in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar, who is also Finance minister, said the government is equally committed to stimulating growth along the northern border through the Delapan Special Border Economic Zone in Bukit Kayu Hitam, Kedah, which has drawn up to RM2.7 billion in investments.

The area, he said, is emerging as a modern growth hub connecting supply chains and the Asean digital ecosystem.

He added that Malaysia is advancing the Asean Power Grid initiative to connect cross-border electricity networks and boost regional energy trade.

"Tenaga Nasional Berhad and Petronas are working with Asean partners to accelerate the Vietnam–Malaysia–Singapore project, which will channel renewable energy from southern Vietnam to Malaysia and Singapore."

Anwar said a 28km road from Kalabakan in Sabah to Simangaris, Indonesia, will be constructed, while the Pasir Mas–Rantau Panjang railway track will be upgraded to enhance connectivity.

He also confirmed that the Johor Bahru–Singapore Rapid Transit System Link is on track to be fully operational by Jan 1, 2027, with the capacity to ferry up to 10,000 passengers per hour during peak periods.

Budget 2026 will be debated at the policy stage for eight days, followed by ministerial winding-up sessions from Oct 29 to Nov 4.