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Seven new data centre projects in Johor reviewed

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SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

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JOHOR BARU: The state government has reviewed seven new applications for data centre projects.

State Housing and Local Government Committee chairman Datuk Mohd Jafni Md Shukor said the data centre development task force will coordinate the sector's growth.

The task force would ensure that data centre growth is balanced with sound urban planning, environmental sustainability and meaningful opportunities for local talent.

To date, Johor has approved 42 data centre projects.

Its second meeting on Tuesday was co-chaired by Johor Works, Transport, Infrastructure and Communications Committee chairman Mohamad Fazli Mohamad Salleh and Investment, Trade, Consumer Affairs and Human Resources Committee chairman Lee Ting Han.

The task force is led by PLANMalaysia Johor and includes entities such as Invest Johor, municipal councils, Land and Mines Office, Johor Water Regulatory Body, Johor Economic Planning Division, Iskandar Regional Development Authority, Malaysian Investment Development Authority, Rambahill SAJ Sdn Bhd and Tenaga Nasional Bhd.

Also playing a key role is Johor Special Water Sdn Bhd, a state-owned utility developing alternative and recycled water systems for hyperscale data centres.

In partnership with companies like AirTrunk Operating Pty Ltd, JSW is building Malaysia's largest recycled water supply scheme.

Development is being concentrated in strategic industrial areas, including Ibrahim Technopolis, Sedenak Tech Park and Pasir Gudang.

To support sustainable growth, the state will limit new approvals in areas



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under the Johor Baru and Iskandar Puteri city councils to avoid land-use conflicts near residential areas.

Johor is implementing Tier-4 global standards for future-ready infrastructure, including energy-efficient cooling systems, water recycling technology and mandatory renewable energy components in all data centre projects.

These efforts align with Johor's twin goals: building a modern, digital economy and ensuring long-term environmental sustainability. Inves-

tors are also expected to provide fair wages and skills training.

"We are not just constructing buildings filled with servers; we are building Johor's future," Jafni said, adding that Johor aims to become the digital capital of Southeast Asia by 2030.

He said Johor is emerging as Malaysia's digital vanguard, where fibre optics, cloud infrastructure, and green tech are fast replacing smokestacks as the drivers of economic prosperity.