

# Jendela will not burden telco operators, say analysts

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Analysts believe the newly launched National Digital Infrastructure Plan (Jendela) will focus on optimising the existing fourth-generation (4G) mobile network and not be too burdensome on mobile network operators.

CGS-CIMB Research analysts noted that the Jendela initiative, which was launched on Saturday, was also aimed at extending high-speed gigabit fixed broadband (FBB) coverage, given increased demand amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We believe the Jendela initiative will not be burdensome to local telco operators as switching off the 3G network will free up the 900MHz spectrum for 4G deployment at existing sites while the 700MHz spectrum may also be allocated to telcos in the future for a more cost-efficient 4G rollout.

"Secondly, telcos will likely collaborate to upgrade/deploy new sites in rural areas, and thirdly, the universal service provision (USP) fund will likely be used to partly defray rollout costs, in our view," said CGS-CIMB in a report yesterday.

Jendela, which is aimed at improving the country's digital communications services under the 12th Malaysia Plan, also seeks to simplify and reduce bureaucracy at the federal and state levels, effectively reducing rollout costs.