

RI – WEEKLY NEWS

WEEK 34 | 26 – 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

ECONOMY

Labour Market Sustained Upward Trend in 2Q 2023

The Edge – 25 August 2023

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported a 2.4% growth in labour market to a record of 16.73 million persons in 2Q 2023, in line with increased labour demand among industries. Number of employed persons increased by 2.8% to 16.15 million persons, while the number of unemployed persons was down by 9.5% to 581,400 persons. National unemployment rate stood at 3.5%.

Malaysia's Manufacturing Industry Sees Lower Capacity Utilisation in 2Q 2023 ☐ The Edge – 30 August 2023

Capacity utilisation rate in the manufacturing industry declined from 79.0% in 2Q 2022 to 78.2% in 2Q 2023, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). By State, Terengganu recorded the highest manufacturing industry capacity utilisation rate at 86.4%, followed by Selangor (82.0%) and Melaka (81.8%). All sub-sectors reported lower capacity utilisation rate, except for the manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products, as well as other non-metallic mineral products.

GOVERNMENT

Special Financial Zone to be Created in Johor's Forest City

The Edge – 25 August 2023

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that a special financial zone will be set up in Forest City, Johor in the near future. The government will offer multiple entry visas and a special income tax rate of 15% for skilled workers, as part of incentives in the special financial zone. The move aims to boost investment, economic activities and growth in Johor.

New Measures to Address Stigma of Low-Cost Homes 🖻

The Star – 26 August 2023

The Local Government Development Ministry has announced several new measures to improve the liveability of People's Housing Programme (PPR) housing. These measures include requiring prospective owners to attend a civic engagement course, presenting letters of appreciation to PPR communities that ensure their housing areas are well-maintained, formulating the Child Friendly Cities Initiative Guidance, and strengthening community activities for better property management and maintenance. The ministry is committed to making PPR housing more liveable for the residents, and these new measures are a step in the right direction.

INFRASTRUCTURE

TNB and PLN to Conduct Feasibility Study on Subsea Cross-Border Power Grid Link

The Edge – 25 August 2023

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Malaysia's Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) and Indonesia's PT PLN (Persero) to study the feasibility of connecting power grids in Peninsular Malaysia and Sumatra via the Strait of Malacca. This study will cover a preliminary environmental impact assessment and the technical, financial and economic feasibility. This will be the first subsea cross-border interconnection in the region.

Progress of ECRL Construction Near 49%

The Edge – 25 August 2023

Spanning approximately 665 kilometres from Kota Bharu in Kelantan to the Gombak Integrated Terminal in Selangor, the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project is expected to be completed in December 2026 and commence service in January 2027. Completion rate for the ECRL project has reached 48.77%. The project involved about 2,700 local companies, comprising contractors, suppliers and consultants, from 2017 to 1Q 2023.

RM4 billion Hydroelectric Dam in Tenom to Address Sabah's Water Woes

The Edge – 25 August 2023

A hydroelectric dam will be built in Ulu Padas, Tenom through a collaboration between the Sabah Energy Commission and the private sector. The dam will be able to channel water up to 6,000 million litres per day. With a cost of RM4 billion, the project will be launched in October 2023 and expected to be completed in 2027. This move is one of the long-term measures announced by the Sabah government to address water issues.

RI - Weekly News is published by REHDA Institute

Wisma REHDA, First Floor, No 2C, Jalan SS5D/6, Kelana Jaya, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

Tel: (603) 7803 6006 Fax: (603) 7880 3823 Website: www.rehdainstitute.com Email: inquiry@rehdainstitute.com

@ REHDA Institute