

## GOVERNMENT

### [Housing Ministry to Propose 12 Initiatives at Cabinet Retreat](#)

*The Star – 16 January 2024*

The Ministry of Housing and Local Development Malaysia to propose 12 new initiatives on tackling current housing and urbanisation issues during the Cabinet retreat on 17 January 2024 and 18 January 2024. Among the initiatives include to tackle the lack of affordable housing, promote the adoption of a secular economy, local government reurbanisation and the renewal of dilapidated public housing projects. The proposed Urban Renewal Act is slated to be tabled in Parliament in 2024.

### [Design Contest For PPR Mooted](#)

*The Star – 19 January 2024*

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia is mooted a competition to generate design ideas for future People's Housing Programme developments. The aim is to revamp the image of public housing projects in the Country. The Ministry had approved RM24 million to Seberang Perai City Council in 2023 for the redevelopment of Pasar Awam Bukit Mertajam. Set to be completed by 2025, the work will cover five components, namely the main building, covered parking, pedestrian walkways, landscaping and safer and more sustainable infrastructure.

## PROPERTY

### [Property Market to Continue Seeing More Positive Outcomes](#)

*The Star – 17 January 2024*

The property market in Malaysia is expected to see positive outcomes in 2024, supported by ongoing initiatives despite external challenges. According to the Malaysian Institute of Estate Agents, the industry has not experienced a sudden collapse or significant negative impacts in 2023. While setbacks were observed during the pandemic, there are signs of recovery, including stable pricing and the revival of some abandoned projects. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia reported that, as of September 2023, 301 projects, comprising 38,752 housing units have been revived, indicating renewed interest and confidence in rebuilding the property sector.

## CONSTRUCTION

### [Project to Prevent River Overflow Ready by 9 September 2024](#)

*The Star – 18 January 2024*

The flood mitigation project at Sungai Kedah and Sungai Anak Bukit to address flooding in Alor Setar and Jitra, Kedah is 78.13% completed and is expected to be completed by 9 September 2024. The project aimed to create new channels to address overflow from three main rivers which are Sungai Baru, Sungai Tanjung Pauh and Sungai Anak Bukit which traverse through housing estates, villages and industrial zones. The major works still in progress involve the construction of two bridges on Jalan Alor Setar-Kangar and Jalan Gunung Keriang.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### [Section 11 of West Coast Expressway Set to Open in 1Q 2024](#)

*The Edge – 17 January 2024*

Section 11 of the West Coast Expressway (WCE) from Beruas to Taiping, Perak, spanning 35.5 kilometre, had reached 98% completion as of 31 December 2023, and is expected to be commissioned in 1Q 2024. The 233 kilometres WCE connects Taiping and Banting, Selangor. To date, 5 of the total 11 sections of WCE routes have been opened to traffic, namely Section 5 (Klang-Kapar) and Section 6 (Kapar-Assam Java) in Selangor, while Section 8 (Hutan Melintang-Teluk Intan), Section 9 (Kampung Lekir-Changkat Cermin) and Section 10 (Changkat Cermin-Beruas) are in Perak.

## WORLD

### [China's Population Decline Accelerates](#)

*The Star – 18 January 2024*

China's population decline accelerated to 1,409.67 million in 2023, a decrease of 2.08 million over that at the end of 2022. The number of births was 9.02 million with a birth rate of 6.39 per thousand in 2023, down from 9.56 million births in 2022.

### [GDP Expands 5.2% in 2023 Despite Headwinds](#)

*The Star – 18 January 2024*

China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded by 5.2% in 2023, following 4.9% growth in 3Q 2023. This meets with the Country's preset annual growth target of around 5%, fuelled by a slew of policy measures taking effect gradually in 2023. The Country's annual GDP came in at 126.06 trillion yuan in 2023.

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