

ECONOMY

Ringgit's Rise Due to Sound Policies 

The Star – 5 August 2024

On Friday, August 2nd, the ringgit rose 1.6% against the US dollar, marking its tenth consecutive day of gains, the best since 2010. The ringgit's strongest performance in 14 years can be attributed to Malaysia's effective policies and its robust diplomatic and economic relationships with other countries, according to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

PROPERTY

Madani Housing Blocks Required in New Projects 

The Edge – 6 August 2024

Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has directed the Federal Territories Department and Kuala Lumpur City Hall to include one or two Madani housing blocks in all new residential projects. He emphasised that this mandate is essential for the approval of new housing developments, aiming to provide opportunities for low-income groups to own homes.

High-Level Committee Agrees to Review the Effectiveness of PPAM 

The Edge – 7 August 2024

The special high-level committee on Malaysian Civil Servants' Housing Projects (PPAM) has agreed to conduct an outcome study to evaluate the program's effectiveness. Chief Secretary, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali emphasised that the study should focus on affordable pricing, strategic locations, housing quality, and sustainability. He called for a comprehensive approach that considers civil servants' needs while balancing private developers' contributions.

Madani Housing Blocks Requirement Will Cause Further Increase in Free Market Prices 

The Edge – 8 August 2024

The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA) Malaysia president, Datuk Ir Ho Hon Sang, stated that the proposed requirement to designate a full block or two as Madani housing, instead of allocating a set percentage, will likely drive-up prices in the free market for those who do not qualify for affordable housing. This includes individuals in the M40 group, whose incomes exceed the eligibility criteria. This requirement could also further exacerbate the mismatch between supply and demand.

[REHDA Malaysia Suggests Setting Up National Affordable Housing Trust](#)

The Edge – 8 August 2024

The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA) Malaysia president, Datuk Ho Hon Sang has proposed establishing a National Affordable Housing Trust funded by developer contributions, based on a percentage of their gross development value. The trust's committee, which could include members from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, State Authorities, and REHDA representatives, would focus on identifying and addressing areas with high demand for affordable housing.

[New 'S-Charms' Rural Initiative Launched to Enhance Rural Planning](#)

The Star – 8 August 2024

Housing and Local Government Minister, Nga Kor Ming announced the launch of the "smart rural" initiative under the Malaysia Madani framework. This includes the System of Spatial Characteristics of Rural Malaysia (S-Charms), launched by PLANMalaysia. S-Charms provides detailed rural spatial information, such as village profiles and land use, to enhance rural planning and development.

[Planning Guidelines for KL Now Available Online](#)

The Star – 8 August 2024

Launched by Kuala Lumpur City Hall, The Kuala Lumpur Federal Territories 2024 Planning Guidelines include regulations on EV charging bays and low-carbon buildings. Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr. Zaliha Mustafa emphasised that these guidelines are essential for sustainable development and future planning.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[Malaysia-Thailand Agreement on New Bridge](#)

The Edge – 3 August 2024

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim stated that the agreement between Malaysia and Thailand to construct the second Sungai Golok-Rantau Panjang bridge demonstrates both nations' commitment to enhancing regional economic growth. He also highlighted their dedication to advancing several long-delayed key projects, which are expected to bring significant benefits, including business opportunities to the people.

[Over RM10 billion Invested in Rural Infrastructure from 2020 to June 2024](#)

The Star – 8 August 2024

Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi stated that RM10.49 billion has been invested in rural infrastructure from 2020 to June 2024. This includes roads, electricity, water, and amenities for Orang Asli villages and remote areas, reflecting the government's dedication to rural development.

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