

GOVERNMENT

**Collaborative Efforts on Underground Utility Mapping** 

*The Edge – 26 August 2024*

Housing and Local Government Minister, Nga Kor Ming intends to present a proposal at a Ministry meeting for Local Authorities, relevant agencies, and utility companies to collaborate on implementing underground utility mapping. He mentioned that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is eager to collaborate with Kuala Lumpur City Hall, the Public Works Department, and other relevant agencies to develop comprehensive underground utility or facility mapping to prevent any unwanted incidents, especially during the development of projects.

PROPERTY

**Madani Deposit, DIBS-like Scheme Should Only be for Controlled-Price Affordable Housing** 

*The Edge – 26 August 2024*

In a media release on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the **Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (REHDA)** expressed the view that the Madani Deposit and a program similar to the Developer Interest Bearing Scheme (DIBS) should be limited to controlled-price affordable housing. The Madani Deposit could provide up to RM30,000 financial assistance for first-time homebuyers, while the DIBS-like program would require developers to cover the interest costs during the construction period.

**Madani Housing Projects Must Include Living Comfort, Essential Amenities** 

*The Edge – 29 August 2024*

Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim emphasised that the development of new Madani housing projects must incorporate elements of living comfort, green spaces, recreational facilities, and essential public amenities. He also noted that these public amenities should include Madani stalls for petty traders and hawkers.

CONSTRUCTION

**Demand for Heavy Machinery in Mining and Construction to Grow Exponentially** 

*The Edge – 23 August 2024*

Master Builders Association Malaysia's Secretary General, Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz stated that the use of heavy machinery in the mining and construction sectors is undergoing a significant shift as digital technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) revolutionise operations. The demand for heavy machinery in these sectors is set to grow exponentially due to ambitious infrastructure projects, urban expansion, and the need for more efficient resource extraction and utilisation.

## [Kuala Lumpur City Hall \(DBKL\) Pauses Construction Approvals](#)

*The Edge – 28 August 2024*

DBKL has issued a new directive stating that planning permission applications for building construction in Kuala Lumpur must now include a geotechnical study conducted by certified engineers. This directive was issued by Kuala Lumpur Mayor, Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

## [New Construction Approvals in KL Suspended After Sinkhole Incidents](#)

*The Edge – 29 August 2024*

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Dr. Zaliha Mustafa, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories), announced that new construction approvals in Kuala Lumpur have been temporarily suspended due to recent sinkhole incidents until a task force can be established to review the standard operating procedures for development projects in the city.

## [Construction Players Should Embrace Technology Disruption and Focus on Sustainability](#)

*The Edge – 29 August 2024*

Master Builders Association Malaysia's President, Oliver Wee Hiang Chyn is calling on industry players to embrace technological disruption and promote sustainability in response to the increasingly complex challenges facing the construction industry. He also highlighted the growing demands of projects, rising complexities, supply chain issues, and an aging workforce as key challenges the industry must address.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

## [Additional RM100 million Allocation for Federal Road Maintenance in Peninsular](#)

*The Edge – 29 August 2024*

According to Deputy Works Minister, Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan, the Government has approved an additional RM100 million for road maintenance across Peninsular Malaysia. Of this amount, RM70 million will be allocated to 79 periodic pavement maintenance projects, while RM30 million is set aside for 200 non-pavement maintenance tasks.

## [Addressing Business Concerns for Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone](#)

*The Edge – 29 August 2024*

According to Johor's Menteri Besar, Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, the State and Federal Governments are taking significant measures to address businesses' feedback and concerns regarding the upcoming Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone. Speaking at the ASEAN Conference, he highlighted those key issues, including the ease of doing business, the movement of people and goods, talent availability, and security and safety in Johor, are being actively addressed.

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