

ECONOMY

Stronger Economy and Ringgit Give Fiscal Flexibility for RON95 Subsidy Plan 

The Edge – 14 October 2024

Minister of Economy, Rafizi Ramli stated that Malaysia's stronger-than-anticipated economic growth and the strengthening of the ringgit have provided the government with greater flexibility in meeting its fiscal consolidation targets, potentially delaying the implementation of RON95 subsidy rationalisation.

GOVERNMENT

Goods and Services Tax (GST) to be Implemented if Minimum Wage is Raised 

The Edge – 13 October 2024

Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim stated that the government will only introduce GST if the minimum income threshold is raised to RM3,000-RM4,000, with the current minimum wage at RM1,500. He emphasised the importance of an efficient and transparent tax system to enhance government revenue while expressing concern that it should not burden the poor.

202 Projects Delayed at Least by Over Two Months Under 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) 

The Edge – 14 October 2024

As of the end of 2023, the Auditor General's Report released on October 14, 2024, revealed that 202 Federal projects under the 12th Malaysia Plan are classified as ailing, representing 5.93% of the 3,404 ongoing projects. Additionally, 107 (3.14%) are behind schedule, 549 (16.13%) are ahead, and 2,305 (67.71%) are on track. The most critical case highlighted is the Seduan People's Housing Programme in Sibu, Sarawak, which is experiencing a delay of 1,120 days, or more than three years.

Putrajaya to Adopt Shanghai's Smart City Management 

The Star – 15 October 2024

The Federal Territories, particularly Putrajaya, will engage in strategic cooperation with Shanghai, China, to enhance smart city management, according to Dr. Zaliha Mustafa, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. This partnership aims to help Malaysia implement innovation-driven technological solutions and modernise urban management practices, fostering resilience and innovation in the Federal Territories.

[Inheritance Tax Will Be a Burden to Family's Heirs](#)

The Edge – 16 October 2024

An inheritance tax could create a significant financial burden for heirs, especially for lower and middle-class children of affluent parents who might face steep taxes on inherited property. **The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA) Malaysia's president, Datuk Ir. Ho Hon Sang** believes that reintroducing this tax, which was abolished over thirty years ago, would discourage ordinary Malaysians from viewing homeownership as a viable investment option.

[34 Applications Approved Under Revamped Malaysia My Second Home \(MM2H\) Programme](#)

The Edge – 17 October 2024

As of October 14, 2024, the MM2H programme has approved 34 applications, which is 13.7% of the total 249 submissions. This includes 11 principal applicants and 23 dependants, according to Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister, Tiong Kiong Sing. The updated guidelines, released by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture in June 2024, eased requirements for fixed deposits, offshore income, and liquid assets.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[Ministry Keeping Tabs on 3,000 High-Risk Slopes Along Federal Roads](#)

The Edge – 12 October 2024

The Works Ministry has mapped 27,000 slopes along Federal roads, identifying 3,000 as high-risk. Deputy Works Minister, Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan stated that the Public Works Department is closely monitoring these high-risk slopes using technology that tracks land movements via the Integrated Slope Management System, managed by the Slope Engineering Branch.

[Sabah Government Aims for Smoother Execution of Pan Borneo Highway Phase 1B](#)

The Star – 13 October 2024

The Sabah government is committed to improving the efficiency of Phase 1B of the Pan Borneo Highway by tackling the challenges faced in Phase 1A. Deputy Chief Minister III, Datuk Shahelmey Yahya stated that the State is concentrating on critical areas like land acquisition, utility relocation, and technical operations to avoid the delays that affected the previous phase.

[Over RM35 million in Federal Funds for Rural Roads in Johor](#)

The Star – 14 October 2024

The Federal Government has allocated over RM35 million for road maintenance in rural areas across Johor in 2024. As of October 2024, State agriculture, agro-based industry and rural committee chairman, Datuk Zahari Sarip said that the Ministry's State office had received approvals for 69 projects, with RM7.4 million designated for the construction and maintenance of rural roads in Johor. He noted that the majority of the projects will take place in Batu Pahat with 33 projects.

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