

ECONOMY

[Economy Forecast to Grow 5% for 2025](#)

The Star – 13 January 2025

Malaysia's economy is projected to grow above 5% in 2025, driven by strategic investment, robust fiscal management, and economic resilience, according to the Ministry of Finance.

[Malaysia to Lead ASEAN's Sustainable Future with Three Key Initiatives](#)

The Edge – 13 January 2025

Malaysia will prioritise energy decarbonisation, biodiversity protection, and economic connectivity to guide ASEAN towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strengthening its global leadership in sustainability. Malaysia assumed the ASEAN chairmanship on 1 January 2025, marking its fifth term, following previous tenures in 1977, 1997, 2005, and 2015.

[Low Tax Rates to Reel in Investors](#)

The Star – 15 January 2025

Investors in the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) can benefit from a reduced corporate income tax rate of 5%, compared to Malaysia's current rate of 24%. Promoted sectors include aerospace, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and speciality chemicals. Investments exceeding RM1 billion will enjoy the 5% rate for 15 years, while those between RM500 million and RM1 billion will benefit for 10 years.

GOVERNMENT

[Urban Renewal Act a Top Priority](#)

The Edge – 13 January 2025

The Housing and Local Government Ministry (KPKT) announced that its primary focus for 2025 will be tabling the Urban Renewal Act (URA) to revitalise dilapidated urban areas. The URA aims to ease urban redevelopment by lowering the consent threshold for acquiring strata titles. Currently, Section 57 of the Strata Titles Act 1985 requires unanimous resolution for terminating strata titles of subdivided buildings. Under the URA, this threshold will be reduced to 80%.

[475 Troubled Private Housing Projects Revived in 2024](#)

The Edge – 14 January 2025

The Task Force on Sick and Abandoned Private Housing Projects (TFST) revived 475 projects, comprising 59,050 housing units in 2024. Of these, 441 projects received the Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC). Additionally, 25 delayed projects were completed on schedule, and nine abandoned projects were revived using completion methods to obtain either the CCC or the Certificate of Fitness for Occupation (CFO), along with solutions for affected homebuyers.

PROPERTY

[Property Market Now on Upcycle, Says REHDA Institute Chairman](#)

The Edge – 16 January 2025

Malaysia's property market has entered an upcycle, driven by rising business and consumer confidence, said **Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA) Institute chairman Dato' Jeffrey Ng Tiong Lip at the CEO Series 2025 Economy & Business Forum**. The positive outlook is bolstered by government initiatives like the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) and the ringgit's attractive rate, which appeals to foreign property investors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[LRT Mutiara Line to Feature 21 Stations Along 29.5 Kilometres Route](#)

The Edge – 11 January 2025

The Light Rail Transit (LRT) Mutiara Line project will feature 21 stations, including a provisional station on Penang South Reclamation Island-A (PSR-A), spanning 29.5 kilometres. The alignment begins at PSR-A and includes two terminus stations: Penang Sentral and the Tun Abdul Razak Complex (Komtar). A key feature is the improved connection between Komtar and Penang Sentral, enhancing accessibility across the Penang Strait.

[RTS Link to Jump-Start Johor Bahru's Growth](#)

The Star – 12 January 2025

The Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link is set to drive economic growth in Johor's capital upon its launch in two years. Scheduled for completion by 31 December 2026 and operational by 1 January 2027, the RTS Link will eventually ease congestion by transporting up to 10,000 passengers per direction between Johor Bahru and Singapore.

CONSTRUCTION

[New Tech to Build Roads in Swampy Areas](#)

The Star – 14 January 2025

Sarawak is adopting the building industry modelling method to construct roads on peat soil, aiming to reduce maintenance costs. This method will first be applied to the Jalan Teku-Pasai Siong project in Sibu, which shortens the journey for Kemuyang residents to Sibu town from 36 minutes (28.4 kilometres) to 7 minutes (6.2 kilometres).

RI - Weekly News is published by REHDA Institute

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