

ECONOMY

**BNM Keeps Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) Steady** 

*The Edge – 22 January 2025*

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has announced that the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) would remain unchanged at 3.00%, a level that has been maintained since May 2023. BNM explained that the current OPR level continues to support economic growth while aligning with the assessment of inflation and growth prospects.

**Malaysia's International Reserves Down to USD115.5 Billion as at Mid-January 2025** 

*The Edge – 22 January 2025*

Malaysia's international reserves declined by USD700 million to USD115.5 billion by mid-January 2025, down from USD116.2 billion at the end of 2024, according to Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). The reserves were sufficient to finance 4.9 months of imports of goods and services.

**Malaysia's Inflation in December 2024 Slows as Non-Food Price Pressure Eases** 

*The Edge – 22 January 2025*

Malaysia's inflation eased slightly in December 2024, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rising 1.7% year-on-year, as non-food items and services saw moderate price increases. Food and beverages rose 2.7%, and restaurant and accommodation services increased by 2.9%. The annual inflation for 2024 slowed to 1.8%, marking its second consecutive year of slowing down.

**Malaysia, EU Resume Negotiations for Landmark Free Trade Deal** 

*The Edge – 20 January 2025*

Malaysia and the European Union (EU) have resumed the negotiations for the Malaysia-EU Free Trade Agreement (MEUFTA), marking a significant milestone in strengthening Malaysia's economic ties with one of the world's largest trading blocs. In 2023, the EU was Malaysia's fourth largest trading partner, with trade reaching RM206.79 billion.

GOVERNMENT

**Housing Ministry Allocated RM642 Million for 3,574 PPR Units in Kelantan** 

*The Edge – 20 January 2025*

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government allocated RM642 million to build 3,574 People's Housing Project (PPR) homes in Kelantan, with 3,268 units completed and 306 still under construction.

## [Trust Fund Proposed to Purchase, Manage Malay-Owned Properties within Sarawak](#)

*The Edge – 20 January 2025*

Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg proposed establishing a trust fund by the Malay associations in the State to manage and preserve Malay-owned properties. The fund could purchase properties at market prices, especially those sold due to *faraid*, ensuring they remain within the Malay community. This initiative aims to prevent properties in Malay areas from leaving community ownership due to financial constraints.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

## [Ipoh Sentral Project to Begin in Six Months](#)

*The Edge – 23 January 2025*

The Ipoh Sentral transit-oriented development, covering an area of 27.11 hectares, will begin in six months, focusing on landscaping, enhancements and preservation of heritage and cultural elements in the first phase. Transport Minister Anthony Loke stated the initial phase, including obtaining approvals from the relevant Authorities, will take two years. The second phase will feature a mixed development comprising serviced apartments, office and commercial spaces, a hotel and community facilities. To be implemented under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, the second phase is expected to take 20 years to complete.

## [Construction of ECRL in Terengganu Fastest, Achieves 90% Completion](#)

*The Edge – 22 January 2025*

The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) construction in Terengganu is progressing the fastest among four States, with 90% overall completion. The construction of the project is still on schedule.

## [Minimal Government Funding for Kuala Lumpur-Singapore HSR](#)

*The Edge – 20 January 2025*

The Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail (HSR) project can only proceed with full private sector funding and minimal Government involvement, according to Transport Minister Anthony Loke. He emphasised that the HSR differs from government-funded rail projects like KTMB and must be a privately funded initiative.

### WORLD

## [China's Home Prices Fall at Slower Pace as Stimulus Takes Hold](#)

*The Edge – 17 January 2025*

China's home price decline eased for the fourth month in December 2024, with new home prices in 70 cities falling 0.08% and existing home prices dropping 0.31%, showing signs of market stabilisation after government stimulus.

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