

RI – WEEKLY NEWS

WEEK 13 | 22 - 28 March 2025

ECONOMY

Inflation Likely to Trend at Manageable Level of 2.0 to 3.5% in 2025

The Star - 24 March 2025

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) expects inflation to rise between 2.0% and 3.5% in 2025, up from an average of 1.8% in 2024. BNM stated that inflation will remain manageable due to easing global cost conditions and the absence of excessive demand pressures.

Bank Negara Projects 4.5% to 5.5% Gross Domestic Product Growth in 2025

The Star - 24 March 2025

Bank Negara Malaysia projects the economy to grow between 4.5% and 5.5% in 2025, driven by sustained domestic demand, supported by private consumption, private sector investments, ongoing public infrastructure projects and adjustments to civil service wages.

LEGAL

Selangor Government Ordered to Release Petaling Jaya Dispersal (PJD) Link Impact Reports The Edge – 26 March 2025

The High Court has ordered the Selangor Government to release three key impact assessment reports (the environmental impact assessment, the social impact assessment and the traffic impact assessment reports) on the PJD Link project to four Petaling Jaya residents within a month, partially granting their judicial review bid.

GOVERNMENT

RM1.5 billion for Micro, Small, And Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Digitalisation Nationwide The Star – 25 March 2025

The Government has announced a RM1.5 billion fund to accelerate MSMEs digitalisation, enhancing their competitiveness. Digital Minister, Gobind Singh Deo said the fund, backed by government agencies and private sector partners, will support MSMEs in adopting digital solutions and securing financing.

Government's Task Force Revives 89 Private Housing Projects

The Edge – 27 March 2025

In the first two months of 2025, the Task Force on Sick and Abandoned Private Housing Projects successfully revived 89 private housing projects, totaling a gross development value (GDV) of RM6.48 billion.

PROPERTY

Housing Loan Growth Slowed in 2024

The Edge – 24 March 2025

Malaysia's housing loan growth slowed to 6.9% year-on-year (y-o-y) in 2024, down from 7.3% in 2023, with owner-occupiers driving most of the increase, according to Bank Negara Malaysia's Financial Stability Review – Second Half 2024, released on March 24, 2025.

48 Abandoned Premises, Buildings Identified in Latest Kuala Lumpur City Hall RecordsThe Edge – 25 March 2025

As of February 20, 2025, a total of 48 abandoned premises and buildings had been identified in the Federal Capital, according to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories), Datuk Seri Dr. Zaliha Mustafa. Based on the latest records from Kuala Lumpur City Hall, 25 of these were residential buildings, while the remaining 23 were commercial properties.

Elevated Office Vacancy Rates Persist as Supply Outpaces DemandThe Edge – 25 March 2025

Bank Negara Malaysia highlighted ongoing concerns about high vacancy rates in the office space segment as new supply continues to exceed demand. According to its Financial Stability Review for the second half of 2024, total office space in the Klang Valley grew to 121.7 million sq ft in the fourth quarter of 2024, up from 121 million sq ft at the end of the second quarter of 2024.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Johor on Track for Rail Transformation

The Star - 23 March 2025

Johor is set to emerge as a major rail hub in Malaysia, strengthening connectivity and driving economic growth. State works, transportation, infrastructure and communication committee chairman, Mohamad Fazli Mohamad Salleh stated that two rail projects in the State are on track for completion, including the Gemas-Johor Baru Electrified Double Track Rail Project.

Two Sets of Electric Train Service (ETS) on Track for August 2025 Debut The Star – 24 March 2025

Two ETS trains from China are set to arrive in April 2025 and will begin operations by August 2025 after undergoing necessary trials, according to Transport Minister, Anthony Loke. He described the ETS as a significant achievement in Malaysia's rail history, spanning from the Thailand border in the north to the Singapore border in the south.

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