

**RI – WEEKLY NEWS** 

WEEK 16 | 12 - 18 April 2025

### **ECONOMY**

### Malaysia's Economy Stays Strong

The Edge - 14 April 2025

Malaysia's economy remains strong and stable despite United States (US) retaliatory tariffs, said the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry. Minister, Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz stated that even with the 90-day pause announced by President Trump, Malaysia will continue pursuing a strategy based on reform, engagement and diversification through bilateral and multilateral efforts.

### No Pullback from Big Foreign Investors Amid US Tariffs

The Edge – 14 April 2025

Major foreign investors are continuing with their expansion plans in Malaysia despite the recent imposition of US reciprocal tariffs, according to Investment, Trade and Industry Minister, Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz. He affirmed that key investors the Government has engaged with remain committed to their previously planned investments.

## Malaysia Takes Pragmatic Approach in Dealing with Global Trade Uncertainties ☐ The Star − 16 April 2025

Malaysia is adopting a pragmatic stance amid global trade uncertainties, particularly involving the US and China, says Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim. He acknowledged that recent US tariff hikes may have negative implications; however, Malaysia remains committed to resilience and adaptability.

### **LEGAL**

### RHB Confirms Named as Defendant in RM313 million Taman U-Thant Suit

The Edge - 16 April 2025

RHB Bank Bhd, Malaysia's fourth-largest lender, is the third defendant in a RM313.08 million lawsuit filed by Prismaworld Embassyview Sdn Bhd. The case revolves around the sale of a luxury condominium site in Taman U-Thant for RM145 million in December 2024, which was owned by the plaintiff and used as security for banking facilities with RHB, according to a bourse filing.

#### **GOVERNMENT**

Sabah Government to Investigate Ineligible Rentals in People's Housing Project (PPR) Units The Star – 16 April 2025

The Local Government and Housing Ministry will conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into allegations that PPR units are being rented out to individuals who are not eligible. Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Joachim Gunsalam emphasised that the investigation will be carried out transparently.

# Anwar, Xi Witness Exchange of 31 Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) and Documents The Edge – 16 April 2025

Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Chinese President, Xi Jinping on April 16, 2025, witnessed the exchange of 31 MOUs and documents spanning various sectors of bilateral cooperation. Among them, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister, Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz and China's Commerce Minister, Wang Wentao exchanged three MOUs, including one focused on enhancing collaboration in trade services.

# **Tengku Zafrul and Amir Hamzah to Head to Washington for Tariff Talks** *The Star − 17 April 2025*

Investment, Trade and Industry Minister, Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Finance Minister II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan will visit Washington DC at the end of April 2025 to begin discussions on the United States' reciprocal tariffs, according to Communications Minister, Datuk Fahmi Fadzil.

# Sabah Amends Land Law to Protect Buyers, Tighten Safeguards Against Fraud The Star – 17 April 2025

Sabah has amended its land law to protect buyers from losing property due to fraud by previous owners. Passed without amendments on April 17, 2025, the Land (Amendment) Enactment 2025 introduces the principle of indefeasibility of title, ensuring that once land ownership is registered, it cannot be easily challenged—unless obtained through fraud or illegal means.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

## Jointly Funded Cross-Border Bridge Expected to Be Completed in 2028 ☐ The Edge − 17 April 2025

The construction of a jointly funded second bridge and the upgrading of the existing bridge linking Rantau Panjang, Malaysia, and Sungai Kolok, Thailand, are expected to be completed by 2028. Works Minister, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi said the project includes a new 117.3-metre bridge built parallel to the current one, along with major upgrades to the existing structure.

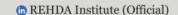
## The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) on track for completion by December 2026 The Edge – 17 April 2025

The ECRL project is on track for completion by December 2026, with overall progress along the Kota Bharu to Selangor alignment reaching 81% as of March 2025. In Terengganu, work is 90% complete, while Pahang has recorded 86% progress.

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