

**RI – WEEKLY NEWS** 

WEEK 17 | 19 - 25 April 2025

#### **ECONOMY**

# 2024 Floods Caused RM933.4 million in Losses Nationwide

*The Edge – 21 April 2025* 

Floods that struck Malaysia in 2024 resulted in losses totalling RM933.4 million, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia. Fire and Rescue Department director general, Datuk Nor Hisham Mohammad said Kelantan recorded the highest losses among States, with RM139 million in residential property damage.

# Bank Negara's International Reserves Rise to US\$118.4 billion

The Star - 22 April 2025

Bank Negara's international reserves increased to US\$118.4 billion as of April 15, 2025, up from US\$117.5 billion on March 28, 2025. According to the Central Bank, the reserves are sufficient to finance 4.9 months of imports of goods and services and cover 0.9 times the total short-term external debt.

#### Malaysia's Inflation Slows to 1.4% in March 2025

The Star - 23 April 2025

Malaysia's inflation rose at a slower pace of 1.4 per cent in March 2025, with the Consumer Price Index reaching 134.1 compared to 132.2 in the same month in 2024, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia. Chief Statistician, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin attributed this moderation to a slower increase in the personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services group.

# Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Johor Driven by Singapore, China, and Japan The Star – 23 April 2025

The primary sources of FDI into Johor are Singapore, China, and Japan, according to State executive councillor, Lee Ting Han. He noted that investors from these countries significantly contributed to the State's FDI figures recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

#### **LEGAL**

# Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP) Supports Urban Renewal Act

*The Edge – 21 April 2025* 

The MIP welcomes the introduction of the Urban Renewal Act as a key step towards revitalising ageing and dilapidated urban areas while promoting sustainable development. MIP acknowledges the need for a comprehensive framework to guide urban renewal efforts, ensuring the well-being of communities and the effectiveness of the redevelopment agenda.

#### **GOVERNMENT**

# Johor Lines Up RM23 Billion Worth of Projects for April 2025

The Star - 22 April 2025

Johor has RM23 billion worth of projects in the pipeline for April 2025, according to Menteri Besar, Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, who also highlighted that the State recorded RM27.4 billion in new investments in the first quarter of 2025 — signalling strong momentum behind the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone.

# Sustainability Still Top Priority in Urban Development

The Star – 22 April 2025

The Housing and Local Government Ministry has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable urban development. Minister Nga Kor Ming highlighted that initiatives such as the Affordable Housing Programme and Citizen-Friendly Home Programme are incorporating eco-friendly designs and expanding the use of industrialised building systems to minimise construction waste.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

# Penang's Light Rail Transit (LRT) Mutiara Line Project on Track and on Schedule The Edge - 21 April 2025

Penang's LRT Mutiara Line remains on track and on schedule, according to project developer MRT Corp. The company confirmed receiving approval for advance works under Section 20A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 on April 15, 2025. It has also secured access to 86 land plots and noted the gazettement of Section 8 under the Land Acquisition Act 1960 to facilitate project progress.

# Four Pan Borneo Sabah Phase 1A Packages Completed

*The Edge – 22 April 2025* 

Works Minister, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi announced that four out of the 16 work packages under Phase 1A of the Pan Borneo Highway project in Sabah have been completed, while the remaining 12 are currently under construction, with the overall progress reaching 81.7%.

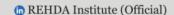
# Government Approves RM1.15 billion West Coast Expressway (WCE) Financing The Star - 22 April 2025

The Government has approved RM1.15 billion in financing from Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Bhd to support the loss-making operator of the 233-kilometre WCE, which links Taiping in Perak to Banting in Selangor.

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